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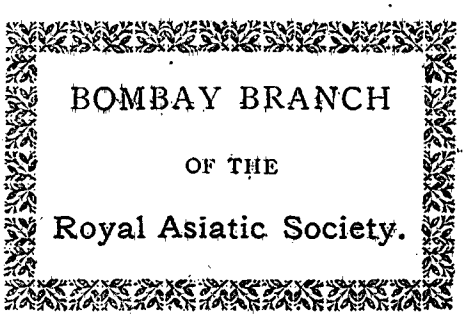

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SELECTIONS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT.

No. XVII.—New Series.

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MEMOIRS

ON

SHIKARPOOR; THE SYUDS OF ROREE AND BUKKUR; THE KHYRPOOR STATE;

THE STATES AND TRIBES ON THE FRONTIER OF UPPER SIND; THE BAY, HARBOUR, TOWN, AND TRADE OF KURACHEE; THE PROVINCE OF LUS; THE CITY OF TATTA, AND ITS ENVIRONS.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN L. BROWN, WHILE AT KAHUN, IN A.D. 1840.

Routes leading from Kurachee to Jerruk, &c.

REPORTS ON THE COUNTRY BETWEEN KURACHEE, TATTA, AND SEHWAN.

NARRATIVES OF VISITS TO BEYLA, AND THE PORT OF SONMEEANEE.

REPORT ON THE MUNCHUR LAKE, AND ARUL AND NARA RIVERS.

MEMORANDUM RELATIVE TO THE TRADE IN INDIGO, IN COUNTRIES BORDERING ON THE INDUS.

MEMOIRS ON THE RIVER INDUS.

REMARKS ON THE PLANTS, AND ARTICLES OF CULTIVATION IN SIND; NOTES RELATIVE TO THE POPULATION, THE CHIEFS, &c. IN THAT PROVINCE; THE PEARL FISHERY, SEA FISHERY, AND SALT BEDS OF SIND.

REPORT ON THE PURGUNA OF CHANDOOKAH, IN UPPER SIND.

ROUTES FROM KURACHEE, &c. TO BHOOJ, TATTA, JERRUK, SUKKUR, &c.

EDITED BY R. HUGHES THOMAS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Bombay:
PRINTED FOR GOVERNMENT
AT THE
BOMBAY EDUCATION SOCIETY'S PRESS.

1855.

Bx. 2-28

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PREFATORY REMARKS.

THE present Selection (No. XVII. New Series) has been published in two editions,—one in two Parts, illustrated with Maps and Charts; the other in a single Volume, without these illustrations.

This Selection comprises, it is believed, a more varied and interesting assortment of papers than has been contained in any of the past numbers of the Series of Compilations of Official Reports, now by order of Government passing through the Press. It is due to the Officers by whom these Reports have been prepared, to state that, with but few exceptions, they were not written by them with the expectation of their meeting the public eye, but were prepared for the information and sole use of Government.

As will be seen on a perusal of this Selection, the Province of British Sind comprises an area of 57,532 square miles, being, as shown in the margin, one hundred and twenty-seven miles in excess of the aggregate area of the thirteen* Regulation Districts of the Bombay Presidency. The population of Sind does not, it has been computed, exceed twenty to the square mile, and this would give an aggregate of one million, one hundred and

	Sq. Miles.
Northern Division.	
1, Surat	1,629
2, Broach	1,319
3, Ahmedabad	4,356
4, Kaira	1,869
5, Khandesh	9,311
6, Tanna	5,477
Southern Division.	
7, Poona	5,298
8, Ahmednuggur	9,931
9, Sholapoor	4,991
10, Belgaum	5,405
11, Dharwar	3,837
12, Rutnagherry	3,964
13, Bombay	18
Total, Square Miles	57,405

* The lapsed Satara Territory has not yet been brought under the Regulations: it is about 160 miles in length (north and south), and 150 in breadth (east and west), and contains an area a little exceeding ten thousand square miles.

fifty thousand, six hundred and forty souls, for the whole of the British Districts in that Province.

The total area of England and Wales is 57,813 square miles; the British territory in Sind is therefore only 281 miles less in extent than the whole of England and Wales.

A new Map of Sind, on a scale of eight miles to an inch, has been prepared purposely for this Selection, in the Office of the Quarter-master General of the Bombay Army: it has been compiled from the latest surveys in the possession of that Department, and may therefore be regarded as the most authentic Map of Sind hitherto published.

British Sind is divided into three Collectorates, namely

Shikarpoor,	containing	11,532	square miles.
Hyderabad,	,,	*30,000	,, ,,
Kurachee,	,,	16,000	,, ,,
	Total..	†57,532	square miles.

This Selection opens with a comprehensive Historical Memoir of Shikarpoor (pages 1 to 70), prior and subsequent to its cession (A. D. 1823-24) to the Ameers of Sind. This paper is succeeded by an account of the Syuds of Roree and Bukkur (pages 71 to 84). Both of these Memoirs were prepared during the past year, by Captain F. G. Goldsmid, of the 37th Regiment Madras Native Infantry, First Assistant Commissioner for Jageers in Sind.

At pages 85 to 102, will be found some information, collected in the year 1840-41 by the late Lieutenant T. Postans (during the period he filled the appointment of Assistant Political Agent in Upper Sind), connected with the town of Shikarpoor and the country immediately adjoining; the trade carried on between the towns of Shikarpoor and Kandahar; and the silk trade between Shikarpoor and Khorasan.

* Subsequent to this measurement having been recorded, additions have been made from the Hyderabad to the Kurachee Collectorate, but the aggregate measurement of the two Collectorates remains, as before, 46,000 square miles.

† From this calculation the territory belonging to His Highness Meer Ali Moorad, amounting to about 2,708 square miles, is omitted.

At pages 103 to 122, are contained an Historical Memoir and and Brief Notes of the Khyrpoor State, in Upper Sind, prepared by Lieutenant Lewis Pelly, of the 17th Regiment Bombay Native Infantry. These papers also furnish information under various heads connected with Meer Ali Moorad, the present Chief of Khyrpoor, and with the territory continued to him subsequent to the Proclamation issued by order of the Most Noble the Governor General of India, on the 21st January 1852, degrading His Highness from the rank of "Rais," and resuming the Districts of which he had defrauded the British Government.

The foregoing papers are followed by a Report (pages 123 to 160), illustrated by a Map, prepared, in the year 1854, by Lieutenant Colonel John Jacob, C.B., Political Superintendent and Commandant on the Frontier of Upper Sind, on the neighbouring States and Tribes. This Report contains varied information connected with,

I.—The "Independent Tribes," being the tribes which reside beyond British territory, and are *de facto* independent of any other State. These tribes consist of the Khetranees, Lasharees, Goorchanees, Kujjuks, Barozhees of Seebee, the Predatory Hill Tribes, the Bhoogtees, and Murrees.

II.—The "State of Khelat, and the Border Tribes subject to that State." The dominions of the Khan of Khelat extend in one direction from Quettah in the north, to the sea on the Coast of Mukran, a distance of nearly 400 miles; and from the frontier of Persia, beyond Kharan and Punjpoor on the west, to the boundary of British Sind on the east, also a distance of about 400 miles. This tract comprises the whole of Beloochistan.

III.—The chief "Border Tribes," who are British subjects, residing within the British Districts in Sind. These tribes consist of the Muzarees, Boordees, Khosas, Jettoees, Jumalees, Doombkees, Jekranees, and others.

This Report is followed (at pages 161 to 187) by a Private

Journal kept by the late Captain Lewis Brown, of the 5th Regiment Bombay Native Light Infantry, embracing the period from the 8th April to the 1st October 1840, containing an account of the proceedings of a small Detachment* under his command, during their occupation of the Fort of Kahun, which was most gallantly maintained for the period of nearly five months, in the face of the greatest privations, and in spite of the unceasing exertions made by a powerful and cunning enemy to dislodge them. Through the gallantry, prudence, and perseverance of this able officer, and the fidelity and bravery of the small garrison under his command, an agreement was eventually made with the enemy that Captain Brown, with his Detachment, should retire from the Fort to the Plain, with all the honours of war, and under a guarantee of safety.

This Journal is succeeded (pages 189 to 208) by a Memoir, prepared in the year 1838, by the late Commander T. G. Carless, of the Indian Navy, on the Bay, Harbour, and Trade of Kurachee; and by a Report (pages 209 to 245) by the late Captain S. V. W. Hart, of the 2nd (or Grenadier) Regiment Bombay Native Infantry, on the Town and Port of Kurachee, accompanied by information relative to its inhabitants, revenues, imports, and exports, &c. &c. during the rule of the late Ameers.

At pages 247 to 267 are two Reports, by Captain E. P. DelHoste (late of the Bombay Army), on the Routes leading from Kurachee to Jerruk, accompanied by an account of the latter town, and of the country between Kurachee, Tatta, and Sehwan.

These Reports are succeeded (at pages 269 to 297) by an interesting Topographical Memoir, prepared in the year 1839 by Surgeon J. W. Winchester, F.R.C.S., of the Bombay Medical Establishment, on the City of Tatta and its Environs.

The foregoing papers are followed (at pages 299 to 387) by a series of Reports by the late Commander G. T. Carless, of the Indian Navy,

* Consisting of 140 rank and file of the 5th Regiment Bombay Native Light Infantry, and one 12-pr. howitzer in charge of Lieutenant D. Erskine, of the Bombay Artillery.

the late Captain S. V. W. Hart, Captain M. F. Gordon, and Lieutenant (now Commander) C. W. Montriou, Indian Navy, on the Harbour, Town, and Trade of Sonmeeanee, the only seaport of the Province of Lus; accompanied by miscellaneous information connected with that Province, and a Narrative of a Journey from Khelat to Sonmeeanee, which, at great personal risk, was performed, in November 1839, by Captain (now Major General) J. Outram, C.B. Amongst this series of papers will be found detailed Reports upon the Import and Export Trade of Sonmeeanee, during the years 1840-41 and 1841-42, drawn up by Captain M. F. Gordon. A Chart of the Harbour of Sonmeeanee also accompanies, which was prepared from actual survey, in the early part of the year 1842, by Lieutenants Montriou and Frushard, and Mr. Midshipman Fergusson, and Mr. Midshipman Holt, Indian Navy.

Two brief Papers by the late Lieutenant T. Postans, 15th Regiment Bombay Native Infantry, on the Munchur Lake, and Arul and Nara Rivers, and on the Trade in Indigo carried on by the Countries bordering on the River Indus, conclude Part I. of this Selection.

Part II. opens (pages 401 to 588) with four highly interesting Memoirs on the River Indus. The first of these papers was prepared from personal observation, in the year 1836, by the late Surgeon J. F. Heddle, Bombay Medical Establishment; the second and third, in 1836 and 1837, by the late Commander T. G. Carless, of the Indian Navy; the fourth Memoir, which exhibits the most remarkable industry and research, is from the pen of that able Officer, Lieutenant John Wood, late of the Indian Navy. It is accompanied by a Chart of the River Indus, in four sheets (now for the first time published*), prepared by that Officer.

At pages 589 to 612 will be found a valuable Paper by the late Assistant Surgeon J. E. Stocks, containing Practical Remarks on the Plants of Sind, and on the uses of some of the wild plants of that

* On the reduced scale of six miles to the inch, being one-third of the size of the original Chart.

Province in medicine, the arts, and in domestic economy; accompanied by a short notice relative to the articles of cultivation suitable to the soil and climate of Sind, to which attention might with advantage be directed. This paper is followed (pages 613 to 636) by some brief Notes, jointly prepared by Assistant Surgeon J. E. Stocks and Lieutenant E. Burton, of the 18th Regiment Bombay Native Infantry, relative to the mode adopted in Sind in the Division of Time, accompanied by tables of the different descriptions of grain, pulse, oil seeds, vegetables, greens, and gourds; with information relative to the dye, clothing, cordage, tobacco, sugar, and intoxicating and medical plants, reared in Sind. This paper concludes with some remarks on the modes of intoxication peculiar to that Province.

Lieutenant Burton has also furnished (pages 637 to 657) some Notes relative to the Population of Sind, and the customs, manners, language, and literature of the people, &c.

At pages 659 to 664 are inserted some brief Extracts from Rough Notes by Mr. H. B. E. Frere, Commissioner in Sind, containing information (accompanied by an explanatory Map) with reference to the relative sizes of the three Zillas into which the British Districts in that Province are divided, as compared with the older Zillas of the Bombay Presidency; and affording a brief review of the mode in which the Criminal Administration of Sind is at present conducted. An Act is now under consideration, having for its object the establishment of a special system of Government for the Province of Sind, and particularly with reference to its Judicial Administration, civil and criminal.

The next Paper (pages 665 to 697) contains a List of, and Brief Information in regard to, all the Chiefs and Persons of Consideration or Importance, inclusive of Zumindars, Jageerdars, &c. residing within the Kurachee, Hyderabad, and Shikarpoor Collectorates.

This paper is succeeded (pages 699 to 707) by some brief, but interesting Memoranda, by the late Mr. John Macleod, formerly

Collector of Customs at Kurachee, on the Pearl Banks and Pearl Fishery, the Sea Fishery, and the Salt Beds, of Sind.

Following the last-mentioned paper will be found (pages 709 to 774) a comprehensive Report by Lieutenant Hugh James, of the 44th Regiment Bengal Native Infantry, on the Purguna of Chandookah, in Upper Sind. This Report is accompanied by a Map, and eighteen Appendices, and affords information relative to the general features of the Districts comprised in the Chandookah Purguna,—their natural productions; means of irrigation; towns, villages, and buildings of importance; the population,—their habits, manners, and character; the nature of land tenures, and the relation of the agricultural classes to each other and to Government; the revenues of the Chandookah Purguna under the late Ameers of Sind, and subsequently under the British Government; the agriculture and manufactures of this Purguna; and, lastly, its civil and criminal jurisprudence.

The Selection closes with a series of Routes from Deesa to Hyderabad and Sukkur; from Hyderabad to Baminakote, Gurra, Kurachee, Larkhana, and Sukkur; from Kurachee to Hoja Jamote, Jerruk, Shikarpoor, Sonmeeanee, Sukkur, and Tatta Bunder; from Larkhana to Dadur; from Sukkur to Dadur, Deyra, Ferozepoor, Imamgur, Kahun, Kotree, and Ramnuggur; and from Tatta to Deesa.

About one-half of these papers, inclusive of the four Reports on the River Indus, was prepared towards the close of the rule of the Ameers; the remainder has been written subsequent to the Conquest.

The Battle of Meeanee was fought* on the 17th February 1843,

* "At 8 o'clock A. M. (17th February 1843) the advanced guard of Major General Sir C. Napier's force discovered the Enemy's camp, and at 9 o'clock the British troops formed in order of battle, being composed of about 2,800 men of all arms, and twelve pieces of artillery. The Enemy opened a most determined and destructive fire upon the British troops, and, during the action which ensued, with the most undaunted bravery, repeatedly rushed upon them sword in hand. After a most resolute and desperate contest, which lasted for upwards of three hours, the Enemy was completely defeated and put to flight, with the estimated loss of about 5,000 men, 1,000 of whom were left dead on the field, together with the whole of their artillery, ammunition, and standards, a considerable quantity of stores, and some treasure. The follow-

and from this period, Sind became a British Province. On the 5th of the following month, a Notification was issued by the Right Honorable the Governor General of India, then at Agra, intimating that this victory had "placed at the disposal of the British Government the country on both banks of the Indus, from Sukkur to the sea, with the exception of such portions thereof as may belong to Meer Ali Moorad of Khyrpoor, and to any other of the Ameers who may have remained faithful to his engagements." On the 13th of the same month Major General Sir Charles Napier, K.C.B., was by the Right Honorable the Governor General of India appointed "Governor of the Province of Sind"; the navigation of the river Indus was declared to be "free to all nations"; transit duties were abolished in the whole of the conquered territory; and it was at the same time announced that "all Acts of Parliament for the abolition of Slavery, and for the suppression of the Slave Trade, shall have full force and effect in every part of Sind which now is, or hereafter may be, occupied by the British army."

The Battle of Hyderabad was fought* on the 24th March 1843, and on the 31st of the same month a Proclamation, from which the following is an extract, was issued by Sir Charles Napier:—

ing day, Meer Roostum Khan, Meer Nusseer Khan, and Meer Wulee Mahomed, of Khyrpoor; Meer Nusseer Khan, Meer Shadad Khan, and Meer Hoossein Khan, of Hyderabad, came in to the camp of Major General Sir C. Napier, and unconditionally gave themselves up as prisoners of war, and the British Colours were hoisted over the city of Hyderabad on the 20th February 1843."—*Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary, dated 27th February* 1843.

* "On the 24th ultimo (March 1843) the British force in Sind, consisting of about 5,000 men, under the command of His Excellency Major General Sir Charles Napier, K.C.B., attacked and signally defeated an army of 20,000 Beloochees, posted in a very strong and difficult position four miles from Hyderabad, and commanded in person by Ameer Shere Mahomed, the Chief of Meerpoor. The battle lasted for more than three hours; the resistance of the Enemy was brave and determined; but in the end, unable to cope against British prowess, they were defeated with great slaughter, and with the loss of all their artillery and standards. The Governor in Council has the highest satisfaction in now stating, that in this decisive combat the troops of all arms highly distinguished themselves, and nobly maintained the honour of their country, under the guidance of their distinguished and intrepid Commander." *Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary, dated 5th April* 1843.

"Inhabitants of Sind! The Talpoors have been conquered by the British nation, and are dethroned. Sind belongs to them no longer: all revenues, as they have hitherto been paid to the Ameers, are now to be paid to the English." On the 17th April 1843, the following General Order was issued by the Right Honorable the Governor General of India:—"The Governor General, at the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Sind, is pleased to direct, that in all the territories conquered from the Ameers of Sind, no demand shall be made, on the part of the British Government, on account of any arrears of revenue due to the Ameers on the 17th of February 1843; but that from that date, all revenue heretofore payable to the Ameers, except under the head of transit duties, already abolished, shall be due and payable to the Officers of the British Government."

An Abstract of Contents, a Detailed List of Contents, an Alphabetical Index, and a List of the Plates, are prefixed to this Selection.

R. HUGHES THOMAS.

Bombay, 17th November 1855.

PART I.

AN HISTORICAL MEMOIR ON SHIKARPOOR,

PRIOR AND SUBSEQUENT TO ITS CESSION TO THE AMEERS OF SIND.

BY

CAPTAIN F. G. GOLDSMID,

37TH REGT. MADRAS N. I.

Submitted to Government in November 1854.

HISTORICAL MEMOIR ON SHIKARPOOR.

PART I.

PRIOR TO ITS POSSESSION BY THE AMEERS OF SIND.

The geographical position of Shikarpoor gives it a distinction among Oriental cities, which even its mercantile and political repute might have failed to win, unsupported. Indeed, without such natural advantages, there would have been but little in the place itself to attract the trader or diplomatist at any time. As one of the gates of Afghanistan and Khelat, where there is not alone a barrier between countries, but a line of demarcation for, as it were, a section of the human race, it is highly important. On the one side, the Afghan has many of those European characteristics, which cannot fail to strike pleasantly a British resident of the Deccan upon first acquaintance. Nor is the Brahoee, nor the hill Belooch, in many instances, unlike his neighbour in this respect. On the eastern side the portal, however, the Sindian is unmistakeably Indian. The Hindooism of his origin is yet apparent in his Musulman disguise. The sons of Islam have invaded, colonized, converted; fire and sword have done their work under the auspices of the crescent; but the daubed shrines of heathen worship are still extant in the country, and the Vedas and Grunth have their separate thousands of votaries, crossing its dry and desert plains, or occupying a fixed dwelling in them. The idol is not the mere chance erection to suit a misguided few, but symbolical of the nation itself—part of the huge temple of Sanscrit mythology which, centuries ago reared in the heart of India, supplied its monstrous images to surrounding lands. It may be objected that Hindooism had spread far westward of Shikarpoor. We will then fall back upon our argument as applicable to men and manners of the present day, and make it rather that of the traveller than the antiquarian.

The late Sir Alexander Burnes records Hijra 1026 as the year in which Shikarpoor was built. This corresponds with Anno Domini

1617, and is ascertained by the word غوی or frog, (marking a marshy neighbourhood,) to be found in the mosque of Hajee Fukeer Oola, outside the Lukkee gate of the town. The numerical value is thus explained: غ = 1000 + و or 6 + ک or 20 = 1026. The owners of the land at this particular epoch, and consequently those to whom the origin of the city must be traced, were the Daoodpotras, or present ruling dynasty in Bhawulpoor. A glance at the nations exercising an influence on Sind at the period in question may not be without its use.

The Emperor Akbar had just completed a glorious reign of fifty-one years, and had been succeeded by the sensual, and far less renowned, Jahangeer. The Mogul Empire may be then said to have reached its height of splendour. Sind had been especially affected by the conquests and organization of the deceased monarch. He had formed one vast government of twelve, if not fifteen Soobhas. Of these, Tatta and Mooltan comprised the principal tracts on either bank of the Indus, from the Punjaub to the sea. He had divided the Soobhas into Sircars, and the Sircars into Mahals. The revenue of the smaller sub-divisions was carefully registered, and we are at no loss to discover in the "Ayeen Akburee" the number of troops available for defensive purposes in the various Dooabahs and Purgunas of the upper or northern division, as well as the extent of land apportionments, recorded in Beegas or acres. Akbar was a wonderful ruler: his reign was, perhaps, one of as much usefulness as of splendour; and it is not surprising that an admiring people became tractable and loyal, under so auspicious a government. If anything may be offered in the way of objection, perhaps it is that the system was too complete and exact for its object; the theory too minute for a sure and safe practice—a strange anomaly as regards Oriental despotism; and yet, not so strange as at first sight it may appear.

There can be but little doubt that, under the arrangement of Akbar, the present land of Bhawulpoor was part of the Soobha of Mooltan. The argument is in favour of Shikarpoor being similarly classed—indeed Hamilton asserts that such was the case, without hesitation; so that, by seeking their present locality, the Daoodpotras have but removed from one portion of their fatherland to the other; nor have they had occasion ever to quit the limits of their original district or Soobha.

In Persia, a monarch of more decided character than Jahangeer was on the throne: Shah Abbas—enterprising, intelligent, and cruel—was pursuing his schemes of aggrandisement in common with other despots; and we find him, about the date of the foundation of Shikarpoor, advancing sufficiently far from his own dominions, towards Sind, to take possession of the fort of Kandahar. Not many years after, a reprisal was effected, by the establishment of an Afghan dynasty upon the Persian Musnud. English travellers were moving to and fro about the

East in these days, with significant pertinacity: the names of Hawkins, Roe, and Shirley were those of early representatives of the British nation, who should not be forgotten.

England herself had just sealed the fiat which nationalised her ensign in India. The foundation of a mighty empire had been laid by the enterprise of a speculating company; the merchants' charter was to become a commission for royalty; the factory was to be but the poor antechamber to the imperial palace: the vast scheme was begun, which two centuries and a half were to behold increasing in magnificence; and he must be a bold prophet who will yet venture to predict the bounds of this marvellous progress! In A. D. 1600, the London traders to the East became a corporation, under Elizabeth—a momentous epoch, indeed, for India and the neighbouring countries. It is worthy of remark, that the early years of the seventeenth century were fatal to the eminent amid both Western and Eastern sovereigns: the great English Queen died in 1603; Henry IV. of France (Le Grand) in 1610; Akbar the Great in 1605; Abbas the Great in 1629.

From the death of Akbar to the appearance of Nadir Shah, a period of more than one hundred years, Sind seems to have been nearly disregarded in contemporary histories, and to want the aid of an especial scribe of its own. The Tarikh-i-Tahiri, the Beglar-Nameh, and the history of Mahomed Masoom, all bring the reader to the brink of this gap; and the scattered, if not meagre, details of the Tohfut-ool-Kiram do not supply it, or serve to connect the periods so fully as might be desired. The last-noted work, however, is worthy of honorable mention, particularly as a performance within the passing century, which can hardly be considered a golden one for Oriental literature. We readily avail ourselves of its stores, in default of more choice and sounder material.

It was during the interval alluded to that was laid the foundation of Shikarpoor by the Daoodpotras. Tatta must have been at this time under the successors of the Urghoons and Turkhans. Of the latter, Meerza Ghazee Beg died at Kandahar in A. D. 1612, leaving a territory, of considerable importance and extent, to be contended for piece-meal by more than one unworthy aspirant to the vacated princedom. Of other dependencies of the Mogul Empire, in or affecting Sind, Bukkur and Sewee had their respective governors—very minor lights, however, compared to the powerful Meerza, an especial favourite at Delhi.

There had been serious contentions, then, at Tatta, between Khusrow and Hindoo Khan,—the former a descendant of Jenghiz, the latter son-in-law to a chief of idolatrous race,—both deputies of the late Ghazee Beg on occasions of his absence; and the brief incumbency at Kandahar of Asa, second of the name, and (perhaps also) Abdool Ali

Turkhan, had expired, when the Emperor Jahangeer carried out his prudent plan of appointing special lieutenants of his outer dominions from the seat of empire; and hereditary viceroyalty in Sind and the adjacent countries received a check in its career. The period required for our present purpose is the outset, then, of this new system; and as none of the newly named imperial agents are shown to have practised any interference in the projects of Bahadoor Khan, (described by Shahamut Ali as) the founder, *par excellence*, of the Capital of Upper Sind, it may be inferred that the site of Shikarpoor was, on the occasion of its selection, a matter of indifference to rulers and the State.

But there were two Bahadoors; and if we take the later one, it is impossible to reconcile the dates. Rather should we be disposed to believe the first of the name the chief of the race in 1617.

He was the son of Bakur, the son of Hybut, whose grandfather Daood Khan gave his name to the whole tribe. There appears to be no sufficient cause to endow these personages with kingly title, or trace their origin to the Prophet's uncle, as their own family records seem disposed to do—so we will adopt the more approved view of their position, and hold them as warriors and weavers, living an erratic and restless life; scattered in separate households of one common stock—some at Khanpoor, some at Taraee, some elsewhere in the district west of the Indus, now known as the Sukkur (or Shikarpoor) Deputy Collectorate.

Chronologically, however, and for certain reasons more essential than interesting to this narrative, there is strong cause to suppose Mahomed, son of Bakur, and father of Feeroz (perhaps sometimes called Fazil), to be the real founder. Moreover if, to be quite in rule, we must have a Bahadoor in the matter at all, it is in no way improbable that Mahomed was known by that name himself, according to the prevailing custom among Musulman tribes, of transferring the distinguishing designation from grandsire to grandson. Upon the whole, we prefer making such a selection for our purpose.

Mahomed, then; his son Feeroz; perhaps, too, his grandson Bahadoor, and others of equal or less note, more skilled, it appears, in the use of the matchlock and bow, than of the loom and shuttle, and certainly preferring the former considerably to the latter, issued forth from their respective dwellings, and beat the neighbouring Shikargahs in quest of game. Upon the ground now occupied by the city of Shikarpoor was a noted forest, which merited and won their attention. About 6 miles to the NE. was Khanpoor, about 9 to the SE. was Lukkee. These were the chief towns in that part of the country. The latter may be considered as the capital at this particular period. It was occupied by

the Mhars (under Bola Khan*), Zemindars of great power and influence, who looked upon the Daoodpotras with jealousy and distaste. They carefully watched the proceedings of the self-constituted foresters, and determined to nip them in the bud: an edict was fulminated, forbidding them to make use of the hunting-ground any longer.

It will be a warrantable digression to inquire as to the origin of these Mhars; how it was they could set forth so much pretension to control, and what was their claim to the ancient town of Lukkee. We learn that there were seven brothers of the tribe in Oobara, near the present Bhawulpoor frontier, of whom one, by name Jaisur, not finding a residence with his near kindred accord with his views of independence, turned his steps to Bukkur, then occupied by the noted Mahmood, (as may be inferred) governor, under Shah Beg Urghoon, of the fort in 1541.† The same ruler was at Bukkur when Hemargoon demanded surrender a few years later. There is no doubt that the Mhars and Dhars were giving their would-be new masters, the Moguls, some trouble at this particular epoch.

The Jetoees, a race of Beloochees, held the country on the west bank of the river between Boordeka and the Larkhana district. This included the town or city of Lukkee, then a flourishing place, so called from Lukkoo, as Gosurjee was from Gosur, and Adamjee from Adam Jetoee. Jaisur crossed the river, and took up his abode among the dwellings of this people. The Mhars and their new comrades disagreed; but the former had a friend at Court. Moosa Khan Mhar was a man of influence with Mahmood, and obtained the assistance of some hundreds to quell the disturbance, by asserting the rights of his own side. The consequence was the subjection of the Jetoees, and a partition of the country. Jaisur received the tract from Mehlanee to Larkhana as a free gift (Tindad and Muddud Mash); stating that on the lapse of a generation one-tenth produce would be reclaimed by Government. The Jetoees obtained the more northern allotment, or from Mehlanee to Boordeka; on payment, however, of the customary land-tax. They probably held the greater part of Boordeka itself throughout the sixteenth century, as the Boordee (or Booldee) usurpation must have been at a much later date. It seems at all events to be an acknowledged fact, that when the latter tribe were driven from the Bhoogtee hills, they came down to the plains to displace the Jetoees, who eventually, with a few exceptions, crossed over to the left bank of the river.

Jaisur Khan remained at Lukkee, which thus became, as it were, his property; and at his death, his son Akil, in conjunction with a brother, Bukur, and cousin, Waddeira Sujun Khan, determined on building

* Meerza Ata Mahomed.

† Erskine's Hoomayoon.

a new town, to replace the old one. The fort which they erected may still be traced. Sujun also built a village, called Maroolo, after his son Maroo—now known as Wuzeerabad, from Shah Wulee, the Wuzeer of Ahmed Shah Dooranee, whose perquisite it in after years became. They say that the extent of the land belonging to the Mhars towards the territory of the Khelat Chief may now be seen by the full-grown trees, which, originally shoots in use for picketting their horses, are yet designated the "Tamarisks of Akil." The said headman and his cousin were buried between Lukkee and Shikarpoor, and their tombs are extant to this day. Izzutpoor and other places may be, in like manner, recognised in following the old settling progress of this powerful tribe.

We will pass them over on the present occasion, to note a circumstance which has been recorded for our information, with all due official gravity, by one of our most respectable Native functionaries. Akil Khan made two divisions of Lukkee—one retaining the name of the town itself, the other called Bhanboor, after his son. In the first, tobacco, hemp, and intoxicating drugs, known as "Maskoorat," are procurable from the soil; not so in the second. The cause assigned for the distinction is a prophecy of one Mukhdoom Oosman, a disciple of the son of Bahawul Deen Mooltanee, whereby it was signified that such products were forbidden in that one locality. Akil Khan died in the year 1012 of the Hijra (about 1603 of the Christian Era). His son Sher Khan was among the most bitter opponents of the Daoodpotras, upon their appearance on the hunting-ground—which circumstance enables us to resume the thread of our narrative.*

The weavers appealed to spiritual authority, as vested in the person of Peer Sultan Ibrahim Shah, whose tomb still bears testimony to the fact of his existence. He was a holy man of eminence, and numbered the Mhars as well as their opponents among his disciples: moreover, he himself resided at Lukkee. He took up the cause of the appellants, and eventually obtained permission for them to resume their sport. Again, however, were they stopped, and again did they seek the Peer for redress. The Mhars were summoned a second time, and ordered to desist. They remonstrated, and finally informed their venerable mentor that they would never spare the intruders, till they had exterminated the whole body, or, at least, driven them from the vicinity of the Shikargah—adding: "If you wish to be their comrade, good; be it so." Baffled and distressed, the Peer bethought him of the final resource in such cases. He invoked curses upon the rebelling Mhars, and blessings upon the oppressed Daoodpotras. He told his protégés, that they were

* MSS. Account of Lukkee, by Kardar Abdool Abid Oolawee.

as the iron sickle, and their enemies as grass or chaff, and promised them the victory in the event of an engagement. Matters prospered, the crisis drew on, and battle became inevitable.

According to the story of the sons of Daood, their ancestors on this occasion could only muster a force of three or four hundred service men, while their opponents numbered 12,000. On the news of the advance of the latter, the Daoodpotras took up their position in a canal known as the Folad, now destroyed, much in the same manner, probably, as the Beloochees did more than two centuries after, in not altogether dissimilar circumstances, except as to numbers, and the character of their opponents. A most sanguinary conflict ensued on the meeting of the hostile forces, which, after the most determined endeavours on either side, eventually terminated in favour of the Daoodpotras, who were left masters of the field. Strange to say, that while some 3,000 dead bodies of Mhars strewed the ground, but few were killed on the side of the victors. A vigorous pursuit succeeded the victory. It was known that the wealthy Zemindars of Lukkee had lakhs of rupees concealed in that city. Thither went the Daoodpotras; and it is by no means unlikely, that on that particular occasion they found means of improving the condition of their financial and commissariat departments. They had before tried conciliation in vain; they had even offered the females of their families to appease the Mhars—it was now their turn to retaliate.

The Peer received his successful pupils with as much mundane satisfaction as allowable to be expressed by so holy a man. He congratulated and entertained them, with what return our history fails to point out; but it may be inferred that he was no loser in the transaction. Mounting his palfrey (we will not call it a tattoo), he led the weavers to the scene of their exploits. He halted at the ground on which now stands the commercial city of Upper Sind. Muttering some mysterious words, which immediately instilled a desirable dramatic awe in the hearts of the bystanders, he raised his hand high in the air, and gracefully dropped an iron nail, which had long been held there unnoticed. The nature of the movement brought the point well into the earth. It remained transfixed in an admirable position for the chief performer of the play. He pointed to the instrument, upon which all eyes were drawn: "Here," said the Peer, "let a city be built; and let it bear the distinguished name of Shikarpoor!"* The air rang with shouts, and the proceedings terminated in the usual manner on such occasions. There was a popular craving, which could only be satisfied in the building of a town—the remedy was of necessity applied. Such things happen daily in more civilized lands.

* MSS. of Ahmed Khan.

The succeeding days were days of physical energy, of which the Sindee is not ordinarily capable. The jungle was cut and cleared; neighbours were summoned, threatened, and cajoled; the work proceeded with vigour and rapidity; by degrees a town appeared. The town in due course became a city, noted for the wealth and enterprise of its merchants, the size and business of its bazar, its hot-bed of intrigue, debauchery, bribery, oppression, evil speaking, and many kinds of corruption; and so passed away the years, till the dawn of the eighteenth century.

Another account of the foundation of the city* represents that old Peer Ibrahim had been gathered to his fathers, and that one of the surviving followers saw, in a dream, the holy man and a stranger drawing water at a well, without the usual aid of menials or cattle. Finding that he was observed, the unknown became instantly invisible, and the Peer, turning towards the disciple, said—"I and my friend Khizr [usually considered by Mahomedans to be the Prophet, possessing the water of life] are thinking of building Shikarpoor. It is to be a large city." The dreamer saw and heard no further, until waking to reality. It need scarcely be added, that the vision was realized by the Daoodpotras commencing upon their masonic labours.

It has been shown that we cannot confidently point to either Bahadoor Khan registered in the Family Tree (vide Nos. XVI. and XX. of Appendix A) as the Daoodpotra founder of Shikarpoor; but have been satisfied to identify the person intended with Mahomed (No. XVIII.), the member of an intervening generation. So little pains have been taken to ascertain the truth of the case, and the evidence now adduced is of so conflicting a nature, that in any other way we should be fairly bewildered to decide upon our hero. Setting documentary evidence aside for mere oral tradition, one might suppose the before-mentioned Daood Khan, and his sons Feeroz and Kehur, to be the warriors of the foregoing narrative. But the Bhawulpoor records tell a different tale; and a less partial written authority† informs us, that the five sons of Daood were Arab, Abbas, Hasun, Hasib, and Kasim; and that Kehur was the paramour of the wife of Pirij, the son of Abbas. The names of five principal Daoodpotra tribes—first Abbasee or Pirjanee, and Kehranee; then Arbanee, Husunee and Heshbanee—are more conclusive of the existence of these their probable ancestors, than that they were the actual founders of the city. In mentioning these names, however, we may venture to claim their owners among the notables of the place and period; and the tomb of Eesa Daoodpotra is evidently that of the

* MSS. of Abdool Ahid.

† Supplementary Account of the Daoodpotras, by Shahamut Ali.

ancestor of the Eeshanee tribe, who, if not the brother of the five chiefs before named, must have been no very distant relation. The same may be said of the old Feeroz, ancestor of the Feerozanees, whom oral tradition yet denotes as the son of Daood Khan.

We have a better light after the year 1700. Towards the close of the brilliant and busy reign of Aurungzebe, a rebellion broke out among the Zemindars of Mooltan and Tatta. The Prince Moiz-ood-deen, grandson of the Emperor, was despatched against them, and is said to have displayed, on the occasion, great gallantry and conduct, and, after a short encounter, defeated Ghazee Khan, one of the many chiefs so designated, a most refractory subject, on the west bank of the Indus.* We learn that the Shahzada had a narrow escape with his own life, and owed much of the victory to the exertions of a stranger in his camp. This was Moobaruk Khan, then leader of the Daoodpotras, and, according to the registered pedigree, son of Bahadoor Khan, second of the name, to whom allusion has already been made.

Though wholly disallowing the honour of laying the foundation stone of Shikarpoor to Moobaruk's father, we give credence to the assertion that Bahadoor held a Sunud for the land upon which the town was built, from Alimgeer himself,† to whom he naturally may have applied, owing to the opposition met with from his unruly neighbours, the Mhars and others. The son had now come at the head of a trusty band of followers, to represent the continued difficulties of the tribe's position in the midst of determined enemies. The moment was most opportune. Not only was he enabled to lend assistance to the Mogul forces in the battle which ensued with Ghazee Khan, but he had the distinguished honour of rescuing the Shahzada's Harem during a night attack of the Beloochees. He was rewarded by a new grant of land in the vicinity of Shikarpoor.

But great license is used under Oriental rule, and the strongest contrives to push himself into the best seat, where right would never have given him standing-room. It must be remembered that the Daoodpotras were originally no more than subjects in Sind, and the newly built city was situated in the territory governed by a viceregent of Delhi. The Meerza of the day, ruler of Seewee (which then comprised Shikarpoor and Sukkur), was one Bukhtyar or Bukhtawur Khan. He must have been a rebel and a bully, for we find him called in the Daoodpotra archives "The Common Enemy," when Moobaruk complained of his conduct to Moiz-ood-deen, and the prince consented to his forcible deposition. A body of Daoodpotras under Moobaruk, Sunjar,

* Scott's Aurungzebe in the Deccan.

† Shahamut Ali's History of the Daoodpotras.

with other Khawanceens, or chiefs of the tribe, proceeded in quest of this disagreeable and ill-starred nobleman, came upon him by surprise, defeated his soldiers, slew him, and mangled and exposed his remains. A triumphal entry into Shikarpoor followed, and the scion of empire lent his presence to adorn the pageant. We are informed that the villages attached to the city, the towns of Bukhtiarpoor and Khanpoor, and a general superintendence of the province and fort of Bukkur, were the further rewards to the Daoodpotras for their valour and fidelity.

There is a large fort to be now seen at Khanpoor, built by one Bukhtawur Khan, whose name is well known in the neighbourhood of that place. It is believed that this individual may be identified with the abovementioned Governor of Seewee and Shikarpoor. But it will be well to turn to what the historian of Tatta* says of this functionary; and in so doing, a slight sketch of the Kulhoras is indispensable for the connection and intelligibility of events.

It would require but a superficial research to place the Kulhoras and Daoodpotras in the same genealogical tree (Appendix A). Cheenee or Jhunia Khan left two sons, Mahomed and Daood; the last of whom is the grandfather of the chief of that name already introduced.† From the son of the first, Kulhora Khan (whence the Kulhoras), Adam Shah is said to be the ninth in descent. Native chroniclers vary as to the period during which this fanatic disturber of the peace flourished in Sind. One MS. states A. H. 909 (A. D. 1504), during the reign of Jam Pheeroz, last of the Summa princes; another A. H. 999 (A. D. 1591). Both this year (believed to be about that of his decease), and 909, are obtained on very respectable authority. Even the former is upwards of half a century later than that supposed in the popular histories of Sind. The intermediate date of Captain MacMurdo,‡ A. D. 1558, can hardly be far from the mark, and may be accepted with tolerable confidence. We learn that Adam Shah was killed in Mooltan, and that his remains were brought down to Sukkur from that city for interment. This was done agreeably to an old request, made by the deceased when living, to one Aga Mahomed Kotwal, to whom he had rendered service. The tomb is to this day a remarkable object on the high road to Shikarpoor. His sons, Ibrahim and Daood, do not seem to have attained note; but his grandson, Meeyan Elias, son of Daood, exerted himself in increasing the number of disciples to the supremacy of the house. The last was succeeded by his brother Shah Ali, or Shahul Mahomed, who gave his attention successfully to agriculture;

* Tohfut-ool-Kirain, Vol. III.

† Ninth from Cheenee, according to the Tohfut-ool-Kirain. (Vide Tree.)

‡ Journal of the Bombay Branch Royal Asiatic Society, May 1844.

attracting at the same time spiritual followers. Larkhana was the scene of his principal labours; and (meeting with a violent death at the hands of the ruler of Bukkur) he was buried at Mazindah, in that district, then known as Chandooka. His son, Nuseer Mahomed, was next on the list of leaders, and worked assiduously at the family exaltation for a period of thirty-five years, during which he escaped from captivity at the court of Aurungzebe, fought with the Ponhars of Khoodadad and the Chief of Bukkur, and gained a wonderful ascendancy over the minds and landed estates of the Zemindars of Sind.

Deen Mahomed succeeded his Father Nuseer, in the turban of leadership. His career was turbulent, and comparatively short. The aggressions which he practised upon the Ponhars, and other Sindee tribes, called upon him the wrath of Delhi. Meerza Khan Pannee (a prophetically ominous name), ruler of Seewee under the empire, was powerless to stem the torrent of victorious fanaticism, which threatened to do no little mischief to his master's dominions. The Emperor sent a large force to revenge the defeat of one of his generals; the prince Moiz-ood-deen was placed in command. At Bukkur he was met by Meer Mahomed, brother of the offending Deen Mahomed, who came to treat, in company with a Hindoo diplomatist. The two contrived to pacify the Shahzada with words and promises, and the army returned towards Mooltan. A shallow boaster, named Muksooda, taking the departure of the imperialists to be a sign of weakness, attacked Mathela and Ooch. He drew upon his brethren, by this act, an unlooked for retaliation: the army of chastisement returned, and cleared out the districts occupied by the Kulhoras. Deen Mahomed fled. Some few months after, he surrendered himself, and tendered allegiance. His brother, Yar Mahomed, however, opposed the troops sent to secure his family. A fierce conflict ensued, which terminated in Deen Mahomed being carried off by the Shahzada, and put to death in Mooltan.

Yar Mahomed seems to have distinguished himself greatly in the attack upon the imperialists.

The impossibility to contend with these for any lengthened time, however, rendered his absence from Sind necessary to the development of his plans for the future. He proceeded to Khelat, and after sundry broils with the ruler, Mehrab Khan, was allowed to settle there. He remained for two years in that stronghold. At the end of this period, he reappeared on the scene of his exploits. We may look upon him as the leader of his people in succession to Deen Mahomed.

Meerza Bukhtawur Khan, son of Meerza Pannee, was ruler of Seewee, and held a large tract on the west bank of the Indus, in the environs of Shikarpoor. Yar Mahomed, associated with Raja Likkee, and Iltas Khan Brahooe, recommenced aggressive measures by a movement in

the country bordering on the Munchur Lake. He possessed himself of Samtanee, expelling the Ponhars, and their head man Kaisur; and despatched his brother, Meer Mahomed, to extend his acquisitions, by a diversion in an opposite quarter. His objects were achieved with skill and rapidity. His career of conquest made Iltas leave him: "You have no need of me; Heaven is on your side: that suffices," said the rough Brahoee. Kundeara and Larkhana were taken among less important places. The latter had been held by Mulik Allah Buksh, brother of Bukhtawur. The Meerza, upon these reverses, appealed to the Shahzada in Mooltan. Moiz-ood-deen no sooner heard the report than he turned to the scene of disturbance. Then Bukhtawur's heart misgave him: he did not wish to see the country entrusted to his charge overrun by the troops of his master. He had probably private and particular reasons for the objection, unknown to the historian. He prayed the prince to withhold his march; and, on a refusal of his request, had actually the audacity to oppose the approaching hosts. He was slain, and Moiz-ood-deen repaired to Bukkur. Yar Mahomed does not appear to have suffered severely for his offences; on the contrary, the Shahzada came gradually round to favour his views of aggrandisement. One after another, a new governor was appointed for Seewee, which province in course of time was handed over to the Vukeels of the Kulhora. Yar Mahomed received the imperial title of Khooda Yar Khan.

There is nothing very conflicting in the two accounts which have been briefly set forth of this incursion of Moiz-ood-deen. The Tatta historian either did not know that the Daoodpotras formed part of the imperial army, or did not think it worth while to record the fact. The other narrative is that of a Daoodpotra himself building the monument of his own reputation.

It was natural that he should dwell upon the alliance with Delhi as a circumstance of weighty import. The atoms of general history are immensities in an individual biography.

We may now look upon Moobaruk Khan and his Khawaneens (among whom Sunjar and Hot Khan are especially noted) as feudal lords, if not independent rulers. The public nomination of an heir apparent in Sadik Khan gives strength to this conclusion. Contemporary history, moreover, affords a clue to the date of these occurrences (about A. D. 1701—03) from the part taken in them by the grandson of Aurungzebe, at the close of his grandsire's reign.

Prince Moiz-ood-deen, from being Nazim or Governor of Mooltan, obtained possession of the throne of Delhi in 1712, on the death of Shah Alum, his father. The Mogul empire was then fast declining into insignificance, and this new prince was not of a character to check its decline. As Juhandar Shah, he was a dissipated, useless monarch,

and little of his reign has been recorded in history. His connection with the government of Sind is attested by a singular Sunud in possession of the Syuds of Bukkur, owners of a large tract of land to the eastward of Roree.

Some authorities maintain, that Yar Mahomed attended personally at the Delhi court, and represented his case to the Emperor Aurungzebe himself. If so, he must have been as successful in that high quarter as Moobaruk Khan in the Shahzada's camp. But his demands were far more ambitious, and, as it has already been shown, the results were proportionately greater. He returned with a grand and lofty title to be ruler of Seewee, while the Daoodpotras were merely confirmed in possession of a town, almost within that district, and, perhaps, one or two neighbouring Jageers.

Khooda Yar Khan Abbasee, the first bearing the title, and the first governor, *de jure*, though not *de facto*, of the Kulhora race, terminated a brilliant and successful career in 1719, and was succeeded in his government by his son Noor Mahomed. The attempts at supremacy on the part of Mahomed Daood, the elder born, were rendered futile by the energy of this new member of the rising house. Destiny had marked him as the active principle of his generation, and he worked with a purpose which looked like the foreshadowing of success.

Passing over his battles with the Brahoees, which belong to general history, we find it recorded, that Noor Mahomed turned the eye of covetousness towards Shikarpoor, and endeavoured to wrest that place from Sadik Mahomed Khan, and his father Moobaruk. Here, again, the Tatta historian takes up different ground from that of the Daoodpotra annalist, and defends the Kulhora's conduct. Had not Meeyan Goolam Shah Abbasee been ruler of Sind when the Syud was composing, we might have less hesitation in accepting his facts; but Oriental etiquette would scarcely allow the book-making subject to represent the father of his sovereign committing an unprovoked aggression. When that etiquette is not in the way, truth may be sought according to the dictates of common sense and experience.

At length, upon the plea that the Daoodpotras had usurped the property of others, Shikarpoor was invested, and the inhabitants put to severe straits. After some resistance and temporizing, it was agreed to portion out the town, and a third party was introduced for the occasion as the rightful Jageerdar, one Meer Abdool Wasa Khan.* To him was accorded two shares, or a full half; the Kulhora, and his comparatively weak opponent, equally divided the remainder. This occurred in 1722. Four years later, after some intervening unsuccessful attempts to oust

* Tohfut-ool-Kirain.

the occupants, a new attack was made upon Shikarpoor. The death of Moobaruk, on this emergency, seemed to dispirit the people whom he had led so efficiently for many years. His son, Sadik, was compelled to retire before the invaders. Khooda Yar Khan took possession, restoring certain neighbouring lands to the Nhars. It was asserted that this tribe, as well as the Mhars before mentioned, had been dislodged from their homes, and interfered with by the increasing power and lawless ambition of the sons of Daood.

For the next thirteen years, the wanderings of the Daoodpotras scarcely belong to the annals of Shikarpoor, which remained in possession of Noor Mahomed or his nominees. During this period, he prosecuted vigorously his Brahoee campaigns, and his lieutenant, Moorad Gunga, won fresh laurels for his own and his master's brows. Nor should the names of Meer Beheram, son of Shahdad Khan, Talpoor Belooch, Shah Bahra, and Raja Likkee, be omitted from the list of those who did good service. In 1735, the bonds of marriage united the families of the chiefs of either party. A first cousin of Abdoolla Khan, lord of Khelat (killed in the battle with the Beloochees and Kulhoras), gave his daughter to Mahomed Moorad, eldest son of the Kulhora ruler. One year after, another son, Khoodadad, became also united to a maiden of noble Brahoee blood.

To return to the Emperors of Delhi. In less than a year after his accession, Juhandar Shah, who, as quaintly asserted by Eradut Khan Wasa, did not reign, but "lay like an embryo in the womb of empire," was driven to abandon his throne to Ferokhsher, and repaired to prison to meet a violent death. Some six years later, in 1719, a like fate was reserved for his conqueror also. A pageant ensued, exhibiting two doomed children, successively wearing crowns. The demise of both within a few months left the path clear to Roushun Akhtur, grandson of Shah Alum, better known as Mahomed Shah. His reign was of tolerable duration, but it was replete with trouble and vicissitudes.

In 1737, Nadir Shah entered Afghanistan at the head of his Persian troops. He prepared for his aggression upon the Delhi dominion by laying siege to Kandahar, which, though itself no longer an appendage of the empire, was a barrier, as it were, necessary to be passed, to carry out the objects of the expedition. In about 1620, the old Sircar, to which this city once gave a name, had been lopped off from the Soobhas of the great Akbar by Abdool Uzeez, on the part of Shah Abbas. Shah Jehan, by good fortune, recovered the loss occasioned, in this important stronghold, by the supineness of his predecessor; but the increasing activity and energy of the Persians, under the younger Abbas, had won it a second time for their sovereign. Its subsequent seizure by Meer Vais Afghan, in 1709, made it an independent government.

The course of events led Mahmood, a son of the above nobleman, to aspire to a throne of higher pretensions,—to seek to plant his little kingdom in the more luxurious area of Ispahan,—to succeed in his aspirations, and to die a miserable maniac. Kandahar was now in possession of Hoosain Khan, brother of the same Sultan Mahomed, whose short-lived dynasty had already been expelled from Persia by Tamasp and his general.*

The siege and blockade of the city and fortress occupied Nadir above a year. From Kandahar, he moved in 1738, to Kabool, and from thence to Julalabad and Peshawur. Where resistance was offered, he assaulted with a vigour which overcame all opposition. In spite of the presence of bold and able officers in the imperial ranks, the emperor had ill-secured his possessions in the quarter assailed. Zakaria, Governor of Lahore, had advanced to meet the invasion, but the prestige of the victorious army was too great to be withstood, and the chief returned to his government as a vassal of the invader. On the 9th February 1739, Nadir was in Delhi, and Mahomed Shah was administering to the wants of the Persian army of occupation.

In the following month, a treaty was drawn up, by which the provinces westward of the Indus were ceded to the crown of Persia: Kabool, Tatta, and part of Mooltan were thus lost to Delhi. Shikarpoor and Seewee were of course included among the transfers.

The scene of carnage and pillage over, Nadir quitted the city of the humiliated Moguls, and turned his steps again towards the Punjaub. But his troops were not yet to obtain that rest which they so much required. Khooda Yar Khan Abbasee was inclined to be troublesome; and he had now a rough master to deal with, very different to those whose want of energy had enabled his predecessors to obtain their seditious ends.

Owing to this disagreeable contretemps, within a month after his return to Kabool, Nadir Shah was on the eve of a new expedition. He marched by the Dherajat, down the right bank of the Indus, and addressed an injunction to be submissive, to Noor Mahomed, without avail, from Dhera Ghazee Khan. That ambitious man had, two years before these occurrences, taken advantage of the excitement caused by the advance of the Persians upon Kandahar, coupled with reports of invitations to Nadir from discontented intriguers at Delhi, to persuade the weak Governor, or Soobedar of Tatta, Sadik Ali, to transfer the government of that province to him for three lahks of rupees.† This barter appears to have had the sanction of Mahomed Shah, into whose

* Malcolm Maurice.

† Mr. N. H. Smith's Memoir, quoted by Sir John Malcolm.

coffers it is not improbable that part of the purchase (or, according to some, lease) money was duly admitted. Upon the approach of Nadir, now sovereign of the lands west of the Indus, the Kulhora fled eastward to Omerkot, and shutting himself up there, made a demonstration of independence. From Dhera Ghazee Khan, the Persian force marched to Larkhana, and was led from thence across the Indus again, in pursuit of this unexpected opponent. As might have been anticipated, it took but little labour to bring the latter to terms. He surrendered at Omerkot, and tendered his allegiance to the crown of Persia.

Nadir behaved with more policy than generosity to his Sindian subjects. To Noor Mahomed, who had put him to the inconvenience of a long march, he confirmed the government of Tatta, and added to his former title that of Shah Koolee Khan. But he assessed his independence, and that of his dominions, with a yearly tribute of £120,000; this, too, in addition to a fine, equivalent to a crore of rupees. The exiled Daoodpotras he replaced in Shikarpoor; and upon Mohbut Khan he bestowed the more western tracts bordering on Khelat, which had belonged to Delhi.*

The camp of this fierce and untiring soldier was pitched at Larkhana, both on moving downwards from Dhera Ghazee Khan, and on his return from Omerkot. His historian does not mention that he was encamped at Shikarpoor at any time, but as a tradition is extant there to this effect, and, moreover, the encamping ground is shown to this day, it is conceived that the visit must have been paid. On the Persian army finally quitting Larkhana on the 13th Mohurum 1153 (A. D. 1740), they marched *viâ* Seewee, Dadur, and Shawul, towards Kandahar, and eventually to Herat.†

It is said that Nadir took with him to Persia, Noor Mahomed's two sons, Mahomed Moorad and Goolam Shah, as hostages for their father's future behaviour. Sadik Mahomed, Daoodpotra, leaving his son Bhawul Khan in the territory which the tribe had acquired of late years on the left bank of the Indus, resumed his old position at Shikarpoor, on the departure of the royal army. One Shaikh Sadik appears to have been nominated to exercise a kind of surveillance over his actions.‡

Not many years after this apparently permanent adjustment of difficulties, the aforesaid Shaikh was killed, and a feud broke out, which occasioned a representation from the Daoodpotra chief to his sovereign, and the despatch of an officer from the latter to inflict punishment upon Sadik Mahomed. Sirdar Tamasp appeared at the head of a formidable detachment before the walls of Shikarpoor, and took possession.§ By a

* Towarikhe Nadiree.

† Towarikhe Nadiree.

‡ Shahamut Ali.

§ Shahamut Ali.

royal order, however, communicated by Meerza Askir Ali, a special envoy for the occasion, Sadik was afterwards nominally restored to favour, and a new Jageer conferred upon him in another locality. Whether this was nothing more than a pretence to get rid of a refractory tribe or not it is hard at this distant period to say, but something of the kind may readily be conjectured. At all events, the Daoodpotras took the message in its unfavourable light; they threw themselves into the city in a body, and when the troops of Tamasp and Askir attempted to follow, they opposed them in a most determined manner. A long and sanguinary struggle was the consequence: its termination in favour of the Persians is asserted to have been brought on by treachery. Mahomed Sadik was killed, and his second son, Moobaruk, wounded. A noted chief, Sunjar, met his death by poison, secretly administered.* The women were slain by their husbands and kinsmen, their bodies being thrown into a well, and buried with myriads of jewels attached to their persons, or scattered over them.† The Daoodpotras who escaped from the slaughter made their way to the open country. The tribe lay claim to a subsequent action, under a new leader, Bhawul, eldest son of the deceased Sadik, in which they were victorious, and Sirdar Tamasp lost his ears. The epithet "One-eared" is also found applied by a MS. authority to Askir Ali.‡ The main question required for history is the result of the contention. It is tolerably clear that the sons of Daood were now effectually banished from their old sojourn on the west bank of the Indus, and driven bodily to find shelter across the river.

A few words of comment on this part of our narrative, for the groundwork of which we are chiefly indebted to Shahamut Ali, and the archives of Bhawulpoor.

There is not the least doubt that Bhawul Khan, who succeeded Mahomed Sadik in the Dustar, or turban of chieftainship, is the Daood Khan, called by Colonel Tod the founder of the family. He is said by that authority to have been a Native of Shikarpoor, who had "acquired too much power for a subject, and consequently drew upon himself the arms of his sovereign of Kandahar."

The title "founder of the family" is borne out, inasmuch as Bhawul was the first to establish their power on the left bank of the Indus. He laid, moreover, the foundation of the city known by his name. The

* MS. Persian Original of Merad Ali; ditto of Ahmed Khan; ditto of Meerza Ata Mahomed. The last, however, states that both Sunjar and Mahomed Shureef, a fellow hero, were well aware that they were about to drink the cup of martyrdom; but it was offered by a Syud, and willingly accepted.

† Verbal statement of Jooma, of Shikarpoor.

‡ Or Askir Khan. Merad Ali writes that this officer built the fort, where the jail now stands.

mention of Kandahar is also quite intelligible, and accords with oral tradition, that the last invaders of Shikarpoor were Afghans. We have only to suppose the death of Nadir, and rise of Ahmed Abdalee, to have intervened between the arrival of Tamasp and mission of Askir Ali, and accept the latter as an officer of the new sovereignty. This fully accords with the evidence to be gathered on the subject, independent of books; and should Tamasp appear out of place in the picture, there is no reason why he should be retained. On the events succeeding the murder of his master being made known, his presence at Shikarpoor could be of little object; except, indeed, he had tendered his submission to Ahmed, on which point the records are silent.

That there has been some hard fighting under the Daoodpotra rule, may be inferred from an inspection of the long room in which are deposited the remains of nineteen chiefs of the tribe, of whom marvellous feats of valour are on record; from the well in which the bodies of the women are said to have been thrown; from the pardonable garrulity of the portly dame in charge, and the progressive enthusiasm of her blind son, in endeavouring to give shape to the legends which he is supposed to retain: in fine, from the same circumstances which make the traveller credit the chamber in Holyrood; the little house at Stratford-upon-Avon; the ruins of Pompeii.

It is true that there may have been considerable bloodshed in the many battles with the Kulhora, whose name, with that of Shah Bahro, and more than one other chief in the Abbasee interests, is brought forward, with an admiring head movement, by the simple, good-natured souls, who have endeavoured to throw light on our researches. It might be proved that the warrior Suhjar, whose tomb stands separate from the rest, was poisoned at a prior date to that of the latest siege mentioned. But we are inclined to give more deadliness and stern import to an Afghan invasion, on the consolidation of a new monarchy for that people, than to a Kulhora Razzai or Chuppow.

Ahmed Shah Abdalee commenced his reign in 1747; and had no sooner gained possession of his own Afghan cities, than he undertook to invade Hindoostan. On this occasion the Mogul armies were true to the empire, and their leaders led them nobly to resist the approaching onslaught. Their zeal and intrepidity were successful, and the Abdalee was compelled to retrace his steps. As under this monarch Shikarpoor was annexed to the Kandahar states, it would lead to no purpose to trace his after progress in India. More suitable, perhaps, to the objects of this Memoir, is the list of governors under the new rule given in Appendix B. In this we have endeavoured to embody all desirable information, up to the period when the city again changed hands. The table will be doubtless new, even to the Indian reader, and may not be

void of interest. It embraces a period of seventy-eight years, and brings the narrative of events up to 1825. With a few remarks, which seem essential to be here appended, we will close the first part of a Report already extended to a somewhat tedious length.

The tribute, which had been exacted from Sind by Nadir, was readily acknowledged by his no less ambitious successor. Nor was the Dooranee monarch inclined to suffer evasion in payment. In renewing the engagement, he made it, as it were, his own, by conferring a new title upon the Kulhora. Noor Mahomed, the Shah Koolee of Nadir, was transformed into the Shah Nowaz of Ahmed Abdalee. This was the light, matter-of-form consideration, for which the heavy money-bags were to be dragged to the Kandahar treasury. But the scales would have been more equal, had truth supplied the place of Oriental phraseology. In lieu of an empty name, the preamble would have shown that a frightful carnage and destruction must have resulted from non-acceptance of the impost. It mattered little whether the destroyer were Nadir or Ahmed Shah; neither bore the sword in vain.

Shah Nowaz, however, felt no more disposed to remain saddled with the obligation than Noor Mahomed or Shah Koolee. He would find means to shake it off, if he could, and rid himself of an intolerable burthen. A Delhi invasion, in which his liege lord was much engaged, offered a favourable opportunity to fall into arrears. If the king were successful there, a little well-timed congratulation might work wonders for so comparatively insignificant a country as Tatta, or Sehwistan. To judge from his acts, these were, doubtless, the thoughts of the unwilling vassal. But unfortunately for his schemes, Ahmed Shah's expedition proved a failure, and that which was to supply Noor Mahomed with an opportunity of securing the royal indulgence, soon became a cause of contrary treatment. The sovereign of Kandahar, disappointed, and wanting money, looked around for relief. A dishonest neighbour and tributary attracted at once his attention; the Sind instalments were unpaid—the delinquent was the man upon whom he had bestowed a title of honour. He marched accordingly towards Sehwan; Noor Mahomed fled to Jaisulmere, and died there in exile.

This might appropriately be considered the close of the first chapter in in the story of Sind tribute. The second would commence with the doings of Mahomed Moorad Kulhora, the "Sirbuland" or exalted (lofty-headed) Khan, of the account current with Afghanistan.

One fact seems to have been lost sight of in after discussions on this subject. The Sind tribute was, in the first instance, levied upon a certain portion of the country, as now known, and not upon the whole. The boundaries of Tatta and Sehwistan in 1840 would be the possessions for which the monies were originally paid, and, according to

the treaty with Mahomed Shah, only those on the west bank of the Indus. Moreover, after purchases and seizures on the said west bank should be struck out of the account. One of the latter was Shikarpoor, regarding the transfer of which city we shall speak more particularly in Part II.

The rise of the Kulhoras, like that of many other tribes and individuals, whereof instances abound in Asiatic annals, is that of Mahomedanism in general; only the result, in the latter case, was infinitely more startling, and affected an incalculably greater number of souls. A singular infatuation led people to attribute extraordinary sanctity to the disciple of a Sheea Syud of Jampoor. The disciple applied his own powers to enhance the greatness thrust upon him, and two or three sharp-witted generations of his descendants fanned the prevailing idea into superstitious veneration. But the decline was even more rapid that the rise: overweening ambition at length displayed its true colours; and then, while there was everything to reject and shun, nothing whatever was visible to attract the crowd. This offshoot of charlatanism drooped and withered, within a short space after its buds and blossoms had been the admiration of the beholders.

The successful selfishness which had been acknowledged by the multitude had made itself especially felt in the persecution of the Daoodpotras; who, whatever their faults and failings, seem to have constituted a brave and enterprising body. It would not be uninteresting to penetrate deeper into the early history of this tribe, and elicit the details of their feuds with the Mhars, Nhars, Ponhars, and other of the many contiguous races which had either settled in, or were aborigines of the country; but it would require much research to accomplish this task satisfactorily, and it is difficult to know where to get information on which to place implicit reliance.

Whether it is that the Kulhoras furnish a correct account of their origin, and the Daoodpotras, in appropriating the ancestors of this race to themselves, have committed a bold genealogical plagiarism,—whether the exact contrary is the case, or whether both accounts are true,—we leave to the descendants of each respectively to determine. In the latter supposition, the contentions described have been little more than family feuds—the result of a natural Oriental family jealousy. From the early periods of Eastern rule down to the present day (A. D. 1854), when we read of the death of a State prisoner in the fortress of Golconda, placed there some years ago by his brother the Nizam of the Deccan, examples of the most atrocious kind are plentiful, to prove the intensity of blood animosity; and the failings of monarchs in this respect are no less the failings of petty chiefs. There would be nothing singular in accepting the whole history as a faithful record, so far as

these two houses are concerned, in their relative positions one to the other.

But discrepancies in dates, and impossible concordances of chronology, throw so many doubts in the way, that we cannot recommend credence to the exact relationship given, even allowing for a generation more or less to be omitted from, or inserted in the tree. It is, however, worthy of note, that the Kulhoras and Daoodpotras are both registered as Sindee tribes, and both lay claim to descent from the Prophet's uncle, and the consequent designation (it would be inferred) of Abbasees; and certain it is, that whatever their descent, whether Arab, Indian, or even Trans-Oxian, they carried with them mettle and a prestige which impelled each clansman to his respective throne—the anchorite to rule in Sind, the weaver to the chiefdom of Bhawulpoor.

End of Part I.

PART II.

SHIKARPOOR AFTER ITS CESSION, OR TRANSFER TO THE AMEERS OF SIND.

When we read of a village, hastily erected amid strife and bloodshed, enlarged in the course of years into a town; under similar circumstances walled in and fortified from time to time, to resist expected attacks of more than one neighbouring enemy—we can hardly hope to hear, that after little more than a century, the concluding portion of which introduced a totally new government, the picture would be that of a wealthy and populous city. One would rather expect to find ruin, desolation, blight, and an abode of owls and bats—a place of prowling for the rejected of the canine species. Such, indeed, would be no unlikely result in England, were the harmony of the church, and the town hall, and the inn, and the manor house, the one long street and the market-place, disturbed by scenes like those enacted in the early history of Shikarpoor. This may appear an anomaly; for there are stout hearts at home, and it is chiefly the meek Hindoo who clings to these ungenial horrors in the far East. The difference of procedure must be attributed to instructed civilization on the one side, and an unimaginative apathy on the other.

But a few years, probably ten or twelve, after the cession or transfer of Shikarpoor from the Afghan to the Meers' government, we find it reported that the place contains immense wealth, and 30,000 inhabitants. The names of the leading firms, and the nature of their dealings, at once put us in possession of the fact that this old Shikargah of the Daoodpotras is the site of a great commercial city; that is, great in a political sense, for in reality it is an ill-shapen mass of houses and streets at the best. Those arrogant sons of Daood—those wild Mhars—gave way before the adventurous Afghan and the foraging Belooch; and the latter tamely suffered themselves to be out-numbered by an influx of Hindoos from all quarters of the compass. But human nature has features resembling those of man's mother earth; and experience would seem to teach us that these waters of Banyanism, which come rapidly down from their home of natural congealment, once thawed into life and mobility by the sun of circumstance, are found necessary to the barest prosperity of the inactive soil of Islam; and are thus, providentially, turned to work the profit or rescue of an otherwise unproductive wilderness. The Hindoo Sahookar is a perpetual commissariat, as it were,

for the fighting followers of the Crescent, who would be sadly crippled without him.

To Timour Shah must be given the credit of encouraging the Bunnias to settle in Shikarpoor: it was a wise and politic move, in a career which was not famous for either wisdom or policy.

This people, much as all to whom a money gain is the object of life,—whose reputation is but a jewel, because, like the painted fowl of the Native Indian sportsman, it attracts other jewels towards it,—must, in the course of events, produce men who attain to eminence in their profession; and in a land where reputation is so little studied, and the word so little understood, except as a *façon de parler*, those who appreciate and regard it for any motives at all must at least be respectable. No wonder, then, that the Bunnias of Shikarpoor, men of intelligence, perseverance, and energy in business, should become in time merchants of trust and distinction. When the Ameers were in power, individuals were found among them who would bear comparison in courteous demeanour, or honest dealing, with the most civilized of our Native gentlemen at the three Presidencies; and such as these, gave a fame to the city of their location, which may be said to have attained its zenith under the government superseded at the British conquest.

But the strange mixture of inhabitants rendered a visit to Shikarpoor particularly interesting during the rule of the Ameers: Afghan, Belooch, Sindee, Hindoostanee; a stray Persian, Georgian, Jeysulmeeree, Kashmeerian, Arab, Bokharee, varied among themselves by the interference of religion, caste, or tribe—all, or even a few of these, would furnish a motley and picturesque group at any time; and the observant stranger might augur well for the condition of a mart of so many nations. The Afghan clung to the place, in all probability, from old associations; the Belooch was the present ruler of the land, and this was one of his chief towns: the Bunnia because he made his money there; others because they had no fixed residence, and could play away their lives in easy indolence under shelter of a roofed bazar. There were great inducements to Natives of the East to find an abode, as there were to European travellers to make a brief halt, at Shikarpoor.

We are, however, anticipating the 28th Zilhuj* 1239 (A. D. 24th August 1824), the date of occupation of the city by the Ameers of Sind. A brief narrative of this event by a Sindee historian (also an eye-witness) may not be uninteresting. It should be premised that, at the period in question, the Afghan government was far different from what it had been under its founder, Ahmed Abdalee. The firm hand which had

* Ata Mahomed—old Maighraj, a fine living antique, transferred to us from the civil establishment of the Ameers—says Rujub, which would be March.

formerly held the reins had been replaced by a nervous and uncertain grasp. This had, again, given way to the tremulous fingers of men experimentalizing, rather than performing an allotted duty: the team was running wild, equally frightened with the powerless drivers; the chariot and occupants were in jeopardy—it was a fitting time to take advantage of a strong neighbour, for those who sought such opportunities.

It should also be noted, that by trick or treaty, by force or purchase, the districts of Boordeka, Ropah, and Chuk Mazarcha, the town of Sukkur, and the estates of Mahomedabagh, Soreja, Kulwaree, and Sukhajee had, at various periods between 1809 and 1824, been lost to the Afghans, and appended to the possessions of the Khyrpoor Meers Sohrab, Roostum, and Moobaruk, respectively. Shikarpoor was nearly an isolated spot on the west bank of the Indus, belonging to Afghanistan, between the Brahoee hills and Kutchee desert on the one side, and the river on the other.

We have adapted, rather than translated, the following from the manuscript of Meerza Ata Mahomed, Moonshee, of Shikarpoor. The chapter from which it has been obtained is one of a long history, which bears ample evidence that the writer is a man of natural intellect, and cultivated mind:—"It is related, that on the death of Sirdar Mahomed Azim Khan, Sirdar Dost Mahomed Khan became covetous of his property and effects, and set forth his claim thereto, in opposition to Hubeeb Oollah Khan, the son of the deceased. They came to open controversy in Kabool, when the Chiefs of Kandahar, wishing to arrange matters, sent Sirdar Sher Dil Khan to stop the contention. This nobleman had separate conferences with each, and, under the semblance of encouraging a renewal of friendly relations between the litigants, contrived to work out his own ambitious ends. He imprisoned Hubeeb Oollah in the fort of Khooda Nusur Khan, and seized on the treasury and valuables of his inheritance, wishing himself to rule in Kabool. But Dost Mahomed, escaping from the net which had been laid for him by this schemer, withdrew from his companionship, and declared battle against him. Poor Dil Khan, upon hearing of these occurrences, repaired instantly from Kandahar to the scene of action. He succeeded in quenching the fire of enmity which been aroused; a compromise was effected, by which Sher Dil Khan took the greater part of the property under dispute from Kabool, and Dost Mahomed was left to rule there. The latter discharged the establishment of the deceased Sirdar, marrying, however, one of the widows. He released Hubeeb Oollah, and restored peace and security to the city. Sher Dil Khan, after his return to Kandahar, sent for Ruhim Dil Khan from Shikarpoor. On receiving the order, this Sirdar prepared to set forth, and nominated Abdool Munsoor Khan, his brother-in-law, to be his *locum tenens*.

Three or four months after the departure of Ruhim Dil Khan, it began to be rumoured that the Sikhs were contemplating an attack upon Shikarpoor. At this time, the Chevalier Ventura was with a force at Dhera Ghazee Khan. The Ameers of Sind,—Meers Kurm and Moorad Ali of Hyderabad, and Sohrab, Roostum, and Moobaruk of Khyrpoor,—seeing that it would be of great advantage that they should, at this juncture, take the city into their own charge, deputed the Nuwab Wulee Mahomed Khan Lugharee to dispossess the Afghans, and carry out the wishes of his masters. The Nuwab commenced by writing to Abdool Munsoor several letters to the following effect:—

"Undoubtedly the Sikhs did wish to take Shikarpoor, and were approaching for that particular purpose. Its proximity to the Meers' possessions in Sind made it very inconvenient for them that it should fall into the hands of this people: moreover, the capture of the place, under the circumstances, would be disgraceful, or at least discreditable, and it was the part of wise men to apply a remedy in time, when available. The Afghans were not in a position to oppose the coming enemy: their Sirdars in Khorasan were in the habit of eating superior mutton, Peshawur rice, luscious grapes, raisins, delicious cold melons, seedless pomegranates, and rich comfits, and of drinking iced water; it was on account of this application of cold to the body, that a martial and lordly spirit possessed them, which it is not the property of heat to impart. It was, moreover, necessary to the well-being of their hardy constitution. While the army were coming from Khorasan, the city would glide from their hands. A well-known Persian proverb was here judiciously interpolated, viz. 'On calling the closed fist to remembrance after the battle, it will be necessary to let the blow fall upon one's own head!'

"In fine, taking all things into consideration, how much better would it be for the Meers to occupy Shikarpoor. They were Mahomedans as well as the Afghans: once having driven away the Sikhs, and deprived the infidels of their dominion, Shikarpoor was at no distance; let it then become the property of the Sirdars. Now, in the way of kindness, let them (the Afghans) return to Khorasan, and join their comrades at table, in discussing the pilaus and fruits, whereby cure is obtainable of this most destructive heat."

Abdool Munsoor Khan, upon receiving these communications, became greatly perplexed, and thought of returning to Khorasan. The Meers, much as they desired to take possession of the town, were obliged to content themselves with assembling an army without its walls, on the plea of protection against a Sikh invasion. They encamped in the Shahee Bagh. The Nuwab sent for Jooma Khan Barukzak, and through him opened fresh communications with the governor: he tried every

artifice to persuade the latter to quit his post. Finding a bold stroke of diplomacy necessary, he urged that he would hold him responsible for the town revenues, accruing after the date of the original proposition for transfer to the Meers! This argument had the requisite effect: Abdool Munsoor refused to refund, but agreed to abandon Shikarpoor. He, however, wished for a brief delay. The frowns of Wulee Mahomed made the ambassador, Jooma Khan, averse to recommend the step to his superior.

In this interval, Dilawur, Khidmutgar to the Nuwab, entered the city, and coming to the house of Sahookar Muya Ram, established there the head quarters, and caused the change of government to be notified throughout the bazar and streets. The Meer's followers came gradually in, and at length were regularly installed, and had obtained the keys of the eight gates. The next day Abdool Munsoor Khan, at Jooma Khan's instigation, visited the Nuwab in the Shahee Bagh. The latter, after much flattery and compliment, gave him his dismissal.

The ex-governor repaired, with his effects, to Gurhee Yaseen, a town in the neighbourhood, and stayed there to execute some unfinished commissions. In a few days the Nuwab ordered him to depart from thence. He did so, and was soon far on his way to Kandahar. Wulee Mahomed felt relieved, and applauded his own handiwork, in that he had won a bloodless victory. He had deprived the Afghans of a much loved settlement, and added it to the possessions of the Ameers. The revenue was divided into seven shares: four became the property of the Meers of Hyderabad, three of their relatives of Khyrpoor. Kazim Shah was the new governor.*

Among the vicissitudes of government described, it would be interesting to trace a link of system or organization, whether fiscal, judicial, or financial; but very little is forthcoming in either respect, for example or warning. Time-serving ministers of personal convenience ruled the newly built city; the most degenerate of dissipations and debaucheries blinded effectually the eyes of judgment or penetration; bribery, partiality, selfish interest, envy, animosity—there were no opposite sentiments to be put in the scale with these; and to draw a distinction between the respective dynasties, would be no easy task. The Daoodpotra might have been a shade more indifferent, the Afghan more cruel, the Sindian more artful, in their several methods of action; but this is rather a strong inference, than the actual outermost verge of proof. What we hear of the two last may be recorded.

Old Mahomed Hoosain, the Foujdar of Shikarpoor, has been an employé of the three governments of Afghanistan, Sind, and England;

* MSS. History of Meerza Ata Mahomed.

filling the same description of office under each. By birth a Persian, he has been located so long in Shikarpoor, that he appears as necessary to its identity as one of its eight gates. His autobiography would, perhaps, not give so true an account of his official rearing, as the quaint illustrations which he constantly supplies of his peculiar reading of British laws and institutions. The easy jail life is but a poor compensation, in the eyes of an Oriental Daroga or Kotwal, for the loss of a limb; a hand for a theft, or an ear by way of change; he has preference for this mode of dispensing justice: it is more sharp, gives less trouble, and has doubtless a good effect. The torture, or goading to confession—he cannot comprehend the principle of discarding these: to him they are the very keystones of government, for to discover a theft he looks upon as the main end of official existence—there is no triumph of statesmanship to bear comparison with that.

The administration of justice (if the term can be applied) under the Afghans must have been tardy and irregular. The constant changes of governors for the city, and occasional employment of Hindoos in this important office, tell a tale of mistrust and instability. The seat of power was, at best, a ricketty chair of state; the Musnud was wanting from the government hall. Two prominent features may be noticed in the scheme of this primitive policy: one was the wealth accruing to the governor from his post, the other the prosperity of the Hindoo community. There can be no doubt that these two results had but one source, and that one could be but little favourable to the poorer classes of Shikarpoorees—to the trader and artisan within, the Zemindar and cultivator without the walls.

There were exceptions to rapacious governors, almost enough in actual number and proportion to nullify rapacity as a rule of government; but the conduct of individuals did not seem to affect the system. The energy and ability of Goolam Siddeek; the stupid fanaticism of Imam Bukhsh; the proverbial generosity of Muddud Khan; the incapacity of Abdool Munsoor, were, doubtless, as conspicuous as the sudden riches of Sirdar Ruhim Dil. The state of affairs which induced the last-named chief to quit Kandahar to rule in Shikarpoor could not, however, be the work of a day; it must have been brought about by the custom of years. It became sound policy for a ruler to live among the Sahookars, his subjects. John of England would have treated his usurers equally well had he held but the tenth part of a throne, and his fellow-sharers been like-minded with him.

One drawback to efficient government in later years was the decline of the new monarchy, whence came the governors. It was evident that Kandahar was Ahmed Shah's: its formation, rise, and maturity had been under his auspices; he had no successor to do more than

watch, if not hasten, its decline. We have shown how easily Shikarpoor changed hands at the instigation of Wulee Mahomed, who made it a Sindian possession with as little difficulty as though it had been a pebble dropped by the Afghan on the road. The stir that such an important step created was but a momentary ebullition. Procrastination and irresolution were the order of the day. By a passage in Masson, we gather that Ruhim Dil Khan and other Sirdars did at one time project an invasion and recapture; but they were thwarted by the demon of internal discord. During their absence, Kandahar was to be governed by a Populzaye Chief, Gool Mahomed. Their nominee commenced proceedings by making proposals to hand over his charge to Khorasan. His treachery was discovered in time; he was seized and imprisoned, and the expedition was deferred.

Thus, amid many other conflicting interests, the city of the border was forgotten. Its loss must have been a more severe one to individuals than to the Government; by the country or people it could have been scarcely felt at all. Perhaps this isolation of its interests in respect to Afghanistan generally was one great reason why the Meers were left in the enjoyment of their gains. No one knew the value of the banks but those who had dealings with the bankers. As a mart and thoroughfare, Shikarpoor would still be open and available.

As regards the occupation by the Ameers. The systems of legislature and polity pursued by two contiguous Mahomedan States, in the relative position of Afghanistan and Sind, are not likely to be much opposed. In this instance, if it be discovered that a little more virtue and a little less vigour characterized the change upon the judgment seat, it must also be allowed, that whatever new features took the place of the old, they were all indices of the self-same spirit. Where bigotry and selfishness are the sources of outward good and evil, they must occasionally be productive of a right as well as wrong result. Much might be said to prove the application of this syllogism to Oriental courts generally; but the argument would be here out of place. Of the two nations now referred to, it may be alleged, that because the Sindee (or Sindee Belooch) is more tender-hearted than the Afghan, he will not look on torture, or destroy with like recklessness: but his tenets and principles are the same: he has menials who will ufe the rack for him, and while the victim groans, he will go to his ablutions and prayers. Or, to give a more literal example. A wretched villager throws himself at the feet of a hunting Meer, and seeks justice on his oppressor. He obtains in words all the redress he asks for, and (we will suppose the sport has been good) a small money present in the bargain. The Meer returns to his palace to find the real offender his bosom friend, the father of a beloved inmate of his Harem: he cancels and ignores the whole

matter, because the dignity of his personal household would suffer by any exposure of the nature contemplated. This Izzut, or self-esteem, is dearer to him than the truer Izzut, or honour, pledged to a miserable subject: not his whole army could restore the first; he has hundreds of retainers, any one of whom could readily patch up the second. Much the same consequences might be expected, were an offender found to be a Peer, or holy protégé of repute.

Prompt and severe were the punishments for theft and adultery. Murder had its shades of palliation, and even justification—not so these; but the lucky thief who could command a bribe had as much chance of escaping chastisement as his neighbour. The woman who had broken faith with her tyrant, if a Musulman, was hopeless: the executioner was in all likelihood the husband himself; and as the law refused to visit him for the murderous act, his mode of vengeance became, as it were, the law. To the Hindoos, this privilege was hardly so acceptable. Less prone to take life than their Mahomedan fellow-citizens, they would often resort to established authority, to punish their women for infidelity. Disgrace, exposure, a fine from the male offender—the atonement was in many cases looked upon as complete after one or more of these consequences.

We have good authority for inferring that robberies were less frequent under the Afghan Hakims of Shikarpoor than under their successors; a fact which has been attributed to a decline in the prosperity of the town and district, immediately following the transfer. It is said, that shortly after the occupation by the Sindees, the inhabitants of the city could not venture outside the walls with safety, although patrols were parading the neighbourhood during the day. It is more than probable, that the suddenness of the commercial and agricultural decline noted is according to the Afghan version of the story; for the position of the merchants, when visited by Captain Burnes, many years subsequent to the expulsion of that people, does not seem to have deteriorated, nor does that Officer place on record any conclusions at which he may have arrived, tending to prove a downfall in credit or opulence. The question of personal security is one which can be solved by ocular demonstration, and could not fail to be correctly discussed by an observant and experienced traveller.

It can be understood, that the prestige attached to Afghanistan in the eyes of outer nations was greater than could possibly be expected for Sind; and consequently, the enterprising merchants would move under surer authority to distant points, such as Balkh and Bokhara, Samarkand or Khiva, when the pass or protection was that of an Afghan Chief. There was, moreover, an affinity of interests—a sort of kindred tie of sympathy—among the nations environing Kabool and Kandahar,

which would extend but little eastward, and not at all southward beyond the Indus, though it would reach to the Caspian, and the Russian frontier in an opposite quarter. One ruler of Kandahar had planted a dynasty of kings in Persia; another had made of the same place a kingdom to rival Persia itself. Short-lived as were both results, the end aimed for had been gained, and Nadir, in his whole invasion of Hindoostan, never fought so hard a fight as the Paniputt of Ahmed Shah Dooranee. The Ameers were insignificant in name, when compared to their predecessors at Shikarpoor; nor can it be a matter of surprise, that the transfer of government affected the commerce of a city owing its importance to Hindoo speculators. Men, whose quiet energies had carried them successfully to the thresholds of naturally hostile strangers, in far countries, must have owed something to the power under which they were content to live, and to locate their families.

Among needy rulers and wealthy subjects, if a fair course of dealing has been once established, the one party becomes essential to the support of the other, and a sudden rupture of the bond which united them will be attended with injurious consequences to both. Accounts thus abruptly closed made it necessary to seek confidence elsewhere. The Punjaub had the attraction to the Bunnia of being a familiar country, and Mooltan and Umritsur may have drawn away some of the influential members of the Shikarpoor Hindoo community; but the shock could not have been so severe as to blind the merchants to the geographical advantages of their old position. Doubtless many moved away in disgust at the loss of their old supporters, and mistrust of the power of the new; but the high-road to the cities of commercial sojourn was still without the gates of Shikarpoor; the houses of their wives and children were within the walls; and in the event of an Afghan re-occupation, the past condition would be renewed, without detriment.

On the subject of Police, for the due organization of which both means and method were wanting on the part of the Meers, the surest and soundest of our informants has declared the contrast to have been greatly in favour of the Kandahar administration. The arrangements of the latter in guarding life and property, both on and within the border, are spoken of as judicious and efficient. While due vigilance was exercised at home in detecting the lurking offender, bodies of horsemen were posted at intervals along the whole line of frontier for its protection; and the district authorities were not suffered to be idle, or without their due share of responsibility, in securing the general well being. The case of Ahmed Khan, Tuppadar of Roopur, is cited as that of a functionary who, for the due fulfilment of his charge, entertained 50 Sowars, placed them under command of his son, and made them available at a post near the present Jacobabad. So soon as these active

measures were relaxed or disregarded, it is natural to suppose that nests such as Chuttur, Phoolajee, and similarly noted villages, would send forth their myriads of hornets, whom nothing could disturb so successfully as impassiveness. The Meers tried cajolery, bribery, and argument in vain. Beejar Khan, Dhoomkee, was an awkward opponent for such an unstable Durbar. In manner like a refractory child, preferring mischief to the good things offered, he was in action a full-grown, formidable man, and so they found him.

But readily as we may acknowledge the existence of the evil to a greater degree in later days, it is impossible to credit that robberies did not occur at all, or that the roads were not notoriously infested with plunderers under the Afghan rule. None ever accused the Dooranees of attempting to mould a Utopia. The Murrees and Booldees are not creatures of a day. The Bhoogtees of the hills, and Dhoomkees and Jehranees of the Kutchee plains, must have shown some signs of vitality, ere the weakness of their own Belooch rulers made them the terror of the neighbourhood. Nor does the Booldee confine his operations to the world without the walls of his city: he is a burglar as well as a robber; he will force a lock or bore a hole, under cover of a dark street, with as much good will, as assault a traveller on the highway. And he was not alone in this part of his profession: he had many comrades, in whose company to ply his crowbar, and neither he nor they were unknown to Shikarpoor half a century ago.

The levy of black-mail was an evil of that doubtful nature, that it became a mistaken means of prosperity. That it was exercised both under the Afghans and Meers, seems to admit of little doubt. Like many other evils, it grew into part of a system, to which habit gave sanction and approval. The robbers of the passes could be bought, and their protection ensured for Kafilas, by acquiescence in this illegal tribute. Goods reached their destination safely when their owners patiently submitted to the exaction, which, if violently taken away, would have entailed a loss of perhaps five times the amount of levy; to say nothing of the legitimate profits of traffic. The same thing is done on a smaller scale by individual British residents in India to the present day, where the paid thief acts Ramosee to obtain his fee. But this is no business of the Sirkar; we would not be thought to uphold a contribution for the support of brigandage. Whatever arguments may be urged as to the different codes of legal morality essential for two races of widely different origin, a civilized government would be more than blameable to permit a state of things so significant of its own weakness and incapability.

The Meers had at first one governor, Syud Kazim Shah. He is spoken of as a person of courteous bearing, and efficient in the perform-

ance of his duty. An after arrangement placed two of these officials in the city; one for the Meers of Hyderabad, another for their cousins of Khyrpoor. These, it is considered, were the actual executives, corresponding with the Naibs, or deputy governors of the Afghans, and their presence in the town or neighbourhood appears to have been an essential part of office. Syuds Zain-oola-bideen Takee, and Ibrahim, brothers to Kazim Shah, were among the more noted of the representatives of the Hyderabad Durbar. All sons of Ismael Shah,—a Syud of Persian descent, raised to high honour under the Meers,—they had the stamp of a gentler humanity than is usually met with in Sind. The elder brother, Zain-oola-bideen, played a somewhat conspicuous part in the narrow arena of diplomacy, wherein the Talpoors were goaded to their ruin. His devotion, talents, and qualifications were worthy of a wider and more distinguished field. Both he and Takee Shah are now living in comparative retirement on the banks of the Fullailee river, at Hyderabad.

The Khyrpoor court was plain and poor, as an ordinary feudal establishment. If Sohrab Khan became parsimonious in his old age, and threw away the sword and shield to give his attention to indigo and a young wife, it was because circumstances had shown that it was more prudent to enjoy what was within his means, than to prosecute uncertain and unjustifiable forays. Roostum was not unlike his father in this respect; but he was perhaps more indolent, and became sooner old. At the time that Shikarpoor changed hands, he was the virtual ruler of the country, and the former Rais was in his Harem, or loitering about his estates with his younger and favourite son, Ali Moorad. The latter must have been then a boy of some twelve or fourteen years. The Durbar showed their appreciation of the newly acquired city, by sending as their Vakeel, Syud Gola Shah, a Wuzeer of distinction, and one in whom the most implicit reliance was placed. This officer was duly installed as the Khyrpoor representative. It matters little to trace his successors (if any) down to Brijdas and Jeyt Mull, of our own times. The employment of a Hindoo was in itself sufficient evidence to show that the financial department was not neglected.

There were two Kucheries in the city, consequent upon this double rule. Neither was guided by a severe code in the adjudication of ordinary complaints. Expediency and custom took the place of legislative enactments, and a fee seemed the great end of justice, so far as the bench was concerned. A man sued for Rs. 60: the sum demanded for a hearing was a third, or Rs. 20; but the hearing did not ensure justice, or even law; and so it is very doubtful whether the litigation of Shikarpoor ever attained its climax until the doors of a British court were thrown open. Petty offences, for which a fine was exacted, appear

to have been disposed of in the Kuchery, nearest the scene of commission. The common revenue is shown to be the Peshkus, or tribute from Hindoos, the tax of the Asnafgurs, or artificers; Government claims on gardens, fields, and wells near the walls; and customs; the last item alone amounting to nearly seven-eighths of the whole. Of the Rs. 94,300 estimated realization, Rs. 54,000 were allotted to Hyderabad, and Rs. 40,300 to Khyrpoor.* Each was sub-divided among the Meers entitled to share in this particular item.

We have stated that Afghanistan (called in Sind Khorasan) had been content to withdraw from the city of their former sway, and leave the Ameers in possession; and they managed to retain their prize until the advent of the British, a period of fourteen years. But, after a time, the tenure was no quiet enjoyment: it was not the Afghan people, but those who played for their sovereignty or chiefdom, that came to trouble their neighbours of the lower Indus. Among these, the pretender, the puppet, and the outcast, were conspicuous characters. The Barukzaye Sirdar, Mahomed Azim, the Wuzeer Sher Mahomed, the Suddozye Ayoob, proved, at least, that Shah Soojah was not the sole disturber of the peace, and commercial economy of Shikarpoor. Had not Ahmed Shah's handiwork been spoiled by dissension and division, the result must have been a re-occupation. But there was no actual King in Kandahar or Kabool.

An Afghan monarch would never have consented tamely to resign his claim upon the place after its abandonment by Abdool Munsoor. There was something so original and unaccountable in the whole affair, that it becomes almost difficult to credit the identity of the *dramatis personæ*. To all except the losers, it was an interlude of droll diplomacy. In dwelling upon this subject a little longer, we are desirous of arriving at the true tenure upon which Shikarpoor was held by the immediate predecessors of England. Nor is it unnecessary to come to some definite understanding upon a question of so much importance.

Particulars are not wanting of the visit of Shah Soojah twenty years ago. He and Shah Zeman were at Loodiana in 1833. The first, as full of ambition as his brother was utterly ambitionless, conceived in that year the design of a new expedition in search of his lost crown. He marched, accordingly, with a force, *viâ* Bhawulpoor, towards Shikarpoor. There is some interest in the local version of the campaign, as connected with the capital of Upper Sind, and we do not remember to have seen it before recorded.

The Sindee historian† states that Meer Moorad Ali had himself urged

* Sind Correspondence.

† Meerza Ata Mahomed.

the dethroned monarch to the step taken. That chief was the paramount ruler of Hyderabad, and it is not improbable that a vague notion of personal benefit may have led him to apply to one, whose prospects of dominion were not altogether unfavourable. Meer Kurum Ali had died in December 1828; Meer Sohrab of Khyrpoor in August 1830; the Nuwab Wulee Mahomed, the most important man in Sind, soon after Sohrab. There were few chiefs of note throughout the length or breadth of the province; and the Hyderabad Rais, untrammelled by brotherly counsel or ambition, was not sufficiently an idler, or a sensualist, to be contented with mere tinsel and feasting in the narrow limits of his own territory. He may have been a man of gloomy temperament,* prone to contemplate his mental troubles and bodily pains; but there was a charm about self-aggrandizement which he could not resist, in spite of the fever and irritation produced. Under any circumstances, the Shah was met at Khanpoor by Kazim Shah, who, for some cause, had been relieved from, or superseded in, the government of Shikarpoor, by Bahadoor Khan Khokur, and he was escorted to the city with all honour. The Khyrpoor Meers looked on in silent dissent from the whole proceedings.

Sumundur Khan was the king's lieutenant—in plainer words, the chief of his army. He had the character for the most determined valour and energy, and was dreaded by even Dost Mahomed himself. He and Bahadoor Khan were appointed a committee of management for the due guidance of the Shah's enterprise, and were invested with controlling powers in the districts of Shikarpoor and Larkhana. On the night of the supersession of Kazim Shah, it is said that an extraordinary meteor was observed to fall from heaven. The ex-governor was, perhaps, no friend to the would-be king, and it might have been well had his master been of a like mind.

Soojah-ool-Moolk did not evidently dislike his quarters. He pitched his camp in the present Collector's (or Residency) compound, then known as the Shahzada's Garden, and commenced operations by a display of financial tactics. He was to stay forty days, and to get Rs. 40,000. Meers Zungee and Jehan Khan Talpoor were the negociators on the part of the Ameers. The king took the money, and, as the weather was hot, resolved to stay four months. The months flew by; Kazim Shah was attentive, and most anxious that the illustrious guest should not be delayed in his expedition. But the want of more camels and money was a drawback, and it was necessary to despatch Sumundur Khan to Hyderabad for the requisite aid. Meer Moorad Ali hesitated; more time elapsed, and the Rais died. This was in October 1833. The king was in great distress. Presents were despatched to the sons of

* Dr. Burnes.

the deceased, Meers Noor Mahomed and Nuseer Khan; ambassadors charged with royal compliments went anxiously down the river: but the young chiefs wished to give proof of precocious government and diplomacy; and in return for the civilities, had anything to offer but rupees or camels.

Public feeling in Sind ran high. Those who declared for the Shah on the west bank were taken under his especial protection. He appointed his local officials, and commenced legislating for his Sindian protégés, treating them in the light of subjects. The climax was a burst of indignation from the offended Meers, and a rise among the Belooch retainers. Meers Moobaruk and Zungee Khan Talpoor reached Sukkur at the head of an army, crossing the river at Roree. Alim Khan Murree, and his son Jehan, were among the chiefs who were conspicuous for the part taken in these transactions. The father was killed in an engagement with one Hidayut Oollah, in the neighbourhood of Abad; the son revenged his father's death by severing his slayer's head from his body. Shah Soojah, storming with rage at the opposition evinced to his authority, assembled a force, and despatched it under Sumundur Khan to meet the Sindees.

The king's army, consisting of Hindoostanees and Rohilas, as well as Afghans, numbered some two or three thousand. The Ameers had taken up a position near the Lalawah canal. Sumundur advanced, with two guns, towards the river, passing by the hill of Adam Shah, close to Sukkur. Coming suddenly on the camp, he opened fire upon the enemy, and threw them into almost instant confusion. Kazim Shah, now a declared opponent, and Syud Goolam Moortuza, were killed, performing prodigies of valour. Many were the individual acts of courage and devotion recorded on that eventful day. The behaviour of the Meers' troops, however, as a body, was far from correct. So evidently thought Moobaruk and Zungee, who, for a long time, would not suffer the boatmen to cross and receive the fugitives, and themselves, standing in safety on the bank at Roree, remained deaf to the cries of their defeated soldiery.

The victory of the Shah created a great sensation in the country. Negociations were renewed: the Peers Nizam-ood-deen and Fida Mohya-deen were this time the nominees on the part of the Meers. Rs. 4,00,000 and 500 camels were produced and paid over, and Rs. 50,000 was allotted for the officers of the state. Bahadoor Khan Khokur was instructed to attend the Shah with 100 men.

In July 1832, the expected grand collision took place at Kandahar, and the thrice defeated ex-monarch retreated from before the victorious Dost Mahomed and his brethren; all of whom seemed to rise simultaneously upon hearing the result of an evidently insipid, though

decisive battle. Hurrying through Khelat and Gundava, in dread of Sikhs and Beloochees, as well as of his own countrymen, he found his way back to Rojahn, on the Sind frontier. Fortune had hardly been inconstant, for she had during a consecutive period of twenty years seldom favoured his aspirations. She was somewhat sterner than of wont, and that was all. Not only were his present prospects of dominion blighted, but Sumundur Khan, the best of his warriors, and the flower of his army, was lost to him for future undertakings. This usually bold man had not added much to his reputation at Kandahar, and his death in Seewee deprived him of acquiring new laurels.

Takee Shah was Governor of Shikarpoor when the fugitives reached the neighbourhood of the city. On this occasion there was no ceremonious Istikbal, or welcome of any kind to greet the royal intruder. Kazim Shah's death on the battle-field was too recent an occurrence for its remembrance to have become extinct in the brother's heart. A fire of revenge was burning there, the influence of which was dangerous to him whose ambition had been the cause of its existence. It was a thought of chastisement, of retaliation, that now usurped the place of projected ceremony and civility.

There were many Afghans nominally in the king's pay, who were in want of money and food for ordinary subsistence. Such as were found lurking about the city were fitting creatures for the governor's ends. With the aid of a little tact and diplomacy, he assembled a body of these wanderers, and sallied forth to Jaghun, a neighbouring village, where he expected to meet his victim; but it was too late—he had left for Larkhana. Strange to say, that Ismael Shah (Mookhtiarkar of that district), the father, and Ibrahim, the brother, of Syud Takee Shah, did not appear to nurture a similar degree of animosity. Ibrahim, indeed, ministered to the king's wants, and enabled him to reach Hyderabad.

His treatment by the Meers on this occasion would hardly be relevant to the subject. Without discussing it minutely, we may add, that although arriving almost unnoticed at the landing-place in a common boat, he obtained money at their hands, enough to enable him to return to Loodiana. It is said that he asked for Bukkur and Shikarpoor, and received an evasive, but not discouraging reply. The one grand desire of the ever feeble chiefs was to witness his departure; and they were not particular what was the burthen of the song, or what the character of the winds, that accompanied him up the Indus. Those who have read Dr. Burnes's narrative may remember, that the Shah had demanded restoration of the Shikarpoor district in 1827: Kurum and Moorad Ali had then rejected the demand, notwithstanding the presents and threats with which it is supported.

It is recorded in our own Political Department, that after the defeat of the Ameers at Roree, not only were the lakhs of rupees paid over, but an agreement was entered into by the vanquished to farm their Shikarpoor territory for a fixed annual sum; for the due performance of which, as well as for supplying an auxiliary force, hostages (probably Bahadoor Khan and his band) were taken. The stealthy visit to Hyderabad may have been by way of memento upon this point, or to try the temper of the petty court under altered circumstances. At all events, recent history does not show that any such contract as that implied was ever exacted in legal form.

This is one of many similar passages in the history of Shah Soojah-ool-Moolk with the Sindees. That he considered this people in the light of subjects on the west bank of the Indus, may be ascertained by his Sunuds to certain Jageerdars or Puttadars, confirming to them lands in the Moghulee district. But the whole thing was a mistake; these places had no connection whatever with the tribute to Nadir Shah, and Shikarpoor less so than all. That monarch had bestowed it as a free gift upon the Daoodpotras when burdening Sind with an impost. If Persia afterwards turned out the Daoodpotras, and the Afghans turned out the Persians, the sequel was possession by the Meers—much in the same way that Bukkur had been before captured with the sword by Roostum. If it was urged that the Meers only held the city by sufferance, then the Afghans should have turned them out when they became refractory; if upon payment of tribute, there should be some bond of agreement to produce.

The levies of Shah Soojah were those of an adventurer, with no sure title, who, presuming upon the weakness of the Ameers, endeavoured to persuade them that he was the paramount power they strove to foresee. His alleged release to Meer Moorad Ali for Sind and Shikarpoor, dated 1795,* is an inexplicable document, for neither the town nor district of Shikarpoor were vacated by the Afghans for many years after that date; nor had Shah Soojah-ool-Moolk assumed then even the semblance of sovereignty. If the Shah wrote it at all, it must have been on the 7th Mohurum A. H. 1249—not 1209—(A. D. 27th May 1833), when preparing at Shikarpoor for his ill-fated expedition of the following year. The next release to Meers Noor Mahomed and Nuseer must have been sent by way of assurance to them on the death of their father in October. The tribute that he contrived to exact in later years (or during the present century), on the score of old established demands upon the country, was raised in the city, because it was conceived that there was the mart of monied men, and the position was good, geographi-

* Correspondence relative to Sind, page 53, No. 46.

cally, for an army marching into Khorasan. The conduct of the Ameers themselves shows that they were somewhat inclined to help him, as a speculation likely to be profitable in the end—not to acknowledge him as a liege lord.

It would be foreign to the objects of this Memoir to broach the merits of the British occupation at Shikarpoor. All has not yet been said that is to be said on that point; but the question belongs to that of our general policy with regard to Sind, rather than to a local discussion. It is enough to give an outline of the leading facts.

In 1839, when the executives of the tripartite treaty had assumed the form of moving columns of armies, Shikarpoor was found to constitute a desirable military rendezvous. In 1842, when Sir Charles Napier first arrived in Sind, he described vividly the advantages of its possession by the dominant Indian power. The conquest of Sind in 1843 placed it, with the district around, entirely at the disposal of the British Government. A Collector and Magistrate was appointed.

In course of time, many changes had taken place in the city: vexatious and burthensome taxes were removed, and the people looked on with the most stolid apathy. An Act for the improvement of towns, involving the most trivial of contributions, turned the indifference into open complaint. These were the Hindoos. The Musulman is a being of a different genus: so long as he has sufficient for his own enjoyments, he will not grudge the legal demands of authority; if he is poor, as most of his creed in Sind, he will at least not exhibit the ignorant obstinacy of the Bunnia in this respect. In other matters, the Hindoos proved themselves capable and worthy members of the community.

Upon the whole, both classes may be said to have been as loyal and reasonable subjects of the English Sirkar as circumstances could have warranted an observer to anticipate. In return for their obedience, they gained a court of justice, the best of endeavours to alleviate revenue exactions, safe transit, and a protected frontier. The incalculable benefits of the last achievement, secured by ability, energy, and perseverance, remain yet to be duly appreciated.

That education has made slow progress in the British capital of Upper Sind for the ten years succeeding the conquest is not so much to be charged to Government measures as abstract philanthropists might assume. Where schools are in no wise, and have never been, public insitutions, it would at least be impolitic to exercise too early an interference with the method of instruction to which time and custom have given sanction. Perhaps the return of these establishments (most, however, do not deserve the name) furnished by the Collector in 1852 may not differ much from what would have been obtained had a similar document been needed under the Meers or Afghans. In it are

registered 21 Persian and 11 Sindee schools; the first implying those in which Persian and Arabic are taught, and numbering 251 male pupils; and the second being for more national objects, numbering 662 male, and 46 female pupils. We must take this to be rather the highest figure attained than an average account, for many of the places of instruction entered in the list are such as hardly to be identified by a casual visitor. The Mahomedan schoolmasters, who assembled at a kind of review in 1853, may be said to have promised more by their apparent decline than any other feature. They looked for the most part morose and expended teachers, and not a few were living ruins of tolerably ancient date.

The schoolmaster in Sind was evidently an object of Khyrat; that is to say, his maintenance, like that of a mosque or sepulchre, was considered a good and pious deed; and the contribution of a student, and a few copper coins monthly, gave the contributor a kind of claim over the receiver, as though the Moollim were a private speculation or company, and his patron a director. Such was the value of education under Moslem sway. Had the great Akbar but added to his many systems one for the due training of his youthful subjects, he would have been a much better monarch; and his example must have had a salutary effect upon the conduct of his successors. The period, however, is now approaching for action: acquaintance with their rulers has ripened the condition of the people for sensible instruction, and much will doubtless have been achieved ere long in the good and philanthropic cause.

A census of the inhabitants, and return of their respective occupations, taken during the current year (1854), have been added, with other local information, to this Memoir (Appendix C). These statistics are supplied from the Official Reports of the Collectorate, and their value needs no comment. When Sir Alexander Burnes reported, in 1837, that the number of inhabitants exceeded 30,000 souls, the statement rendered at the present day might have equally well applied to that period. Full seventeen years seemed to have passed without any perceptible change in this respect. The fact speaks volumes for a city of many revolutions.

The Jageerdars and Natives of influence in Shikarpoor are different from the Belooch Chiefs of Hyderabad. The latter derived their lands from the Belooch Ameers as commutation for pay, for grain, or both combined, which allowances were originally granted for military service. Where the original grants were of landed estates, they were usually to relatives, or heads of tribes, whose allegiance was important. The former, on the other hand, were mostly grantees of the Afghan kings. They had followed the train of an Afghan army or Kafila, had found their way to Sind, and applied themselves to cultivation. Some

were men of note, as Peers and Mukhdooms; others as office-bearers; others, again, as members of a noble family. Their efforts were encouraged, they became owners of the soil, and received in some cases Puttas, or permanent leases, in some Sunuds for the revenues, whole or in part. Those who got the Puttas were known as Puttadars; and although, in the benefits derived, the difference between them and revenue Jageerdars is but nominal, the Putta does not seem to have been given so much to religious teachers as to Puthans of an opposite class. In late years, all have been in the habit of considering themselves under this head, and endeavouring to bring Government to the same view. The impression that to be a Puttadar would ensure perpetuity, and non-interference in the event of lapse among shareholders, has evidently been the cause.

A few individuals may be cited: Abdoolla Khan Barukzaye, Peer Nizam-ood-deen Sirhindee, Ali Murdan Abra, Fukhr-ood-deen Oollawee, Alif Khan Tahreen, and Mukhdoom Mahomed Akil, hold more or less alienations of Government land and revenue, which, though trifling compared to the large Hyderabad Jageers, give them comparative importance in the upper districts of Sind. But these men (and by the examples a class is intended) have far more claim to distinct notice than the ordinary Belooch Chiefs of Wichola and Lar. There is not that sameness of sentiment and indifference to all but self found on intercourse with them, so palpable, and almost painful, in the Talpoor and the Murree, the Lugharee and the Nizamanee. Not only have they a page of history to show as an introduction, but they themselves furnish worthy living illustrations of the page. Few are the Belooch nobles who can aspire to do more than represent the lifeless portrait; and even in that respect the reader would be often disappointed. Let us briefly analyze our nominees, taken almost at random amid a crowd.

Abdoolla Khan, son of the late Jooma Khan, who, it may be remembered, played a part in the cession of Shikarpoor already described, is a man of some standing and influence, said to be related on the father's side to the Chief of Kabool. He is a landowner, and holds, moreover, three-eighths of the Government revenues of a small district near the city. His personal attention has evidently been much given to the improvement of his estate, and his name will be long associated with that of the village in which he resides, the prosperous and busy Gurhee Yaseen. He is a man of singularly quiet demeanour and address, tall and bulky in person, and would appear to have been designed for an honest farmer, if some unaccountable freak of nature had not thrown a sinister meaning into the picture. His sons and nephews are by no means promising, unless an inordinate smartness in acquiring lucre be held a

worthy quality for classification under that head. It is doubtful upon whom of the family to fix the fault, but a degree of overreaching and unscrupulousness has become apparent in their dealings with less wealthy neighbours, which is far from conducive to the perpetuity of an honorable name. The Deputy Magistrate's Court has been often the scene of litigation for this branch of Barukzayes, and they are conspicuous in its records both in the characters of plaintiff and defendant. Abdoolla Khan himself will be the sufferer, if he does not keep his house in better order; and many who know him would lament the downfall of one, whose respectability erst could not fail to give him the title of an Afghan gentleman among the British residents of Shikarpoor.

Nizam-ood-deen, Peer of Sirhind, is not so distinguished as his late brother, Fida Mohya-deen; but his talents and reputation entitle him to particular notice among the residents of the city, and Jageerdars of the district. A little, intelligent old man—his one eye, his long white beard, his snuff-box and staff, are his outward personal characteristics. A keen perception of men and manners; a power of repartee; a poetic fancy; a logical method of deduction; and very considerable acquaintance with Mahomedan learning and lore, are the mental qualities and attainments which have given him distinction as one of the alumni or Oolema of the land. His enemies may call him extravagant and licentious; but the credit of a holy Peer is so dependent upon outlay, that we cannot judge of these things upon the acknowledged rule at home. Nor is the taking to himself a young wife in his advanced age unwarranted by illustrious examples of old: it is a strictly patriarchal act, and the lady's family feel honoured at the alliance. What there is of sacrifice therein must be weighed by the customs of the people, and not by a code of strangers. Nizam-ood-deen and his late brother have laid claim to an Arab descent. In the early ages of Islam, their ancestor, Furookh Shah, is said to have made many converts to the new religion. He resided in Kabool, his descendants in Sirhind, whither the family at one time migrated. The Delhi Kings were among the disciples of these holy men. Ahmed Shah Dooranee reinstalled them in Kabool; but the present Peer's immediate ancestor remained at Peshawur, from which place his father, Goolam Mohya-deen, came to Sind in 1790, during the supremacy of the Kulhoras. The treatment of the last-named and his sons, by the Ameers, was of so liberal a nature, that the land became that of their adoption. At the conquest, Fida Mohya-deen and Nizam-ood-deen survived, and received some five or six Jageers, of which they were found in possession. They comprise both land and shares in Government revenue. Fida Mohya-deen died in 1853, but a re-grant has been made in favour of his son, Mahomed Ashruff, of whom there is but little to record.

Ali Murdan Abra, son of the influential Julal Khan, is the head of a large and ancient tribe, giving the distinguishing name to one of the two Nowshera districts. They are said to have come originally from Bhooj; but the assertion that they are a pure Sindee race, supported, moreover, by innumerable songs and traditions, seems to be at variance with this statement. Their reputation surpasses that of all the neighbouring tribes, in local history and romance.

Meer Fukhr-ood-deen Oolawee is a Native gentleman of high attainments, polished manners, and address; grandson of Hajee Fukeer Oollah, whose name has been given to more than one religious edifice at Shikarpoor. This Hajee is honorably mentioned in the Tohfut-ool-Kirain; and the Sunuds of the Afghan Kings on his own account, and again in favour of his numerous family, show the interest taken by the court of Kandahar in securing to him his possessions, and entailing them to his descendants. Fukhr-ood-deen was formerly Vukeel to His Highness Meer Ali Moorad; his removal from this appointment has left him without specific employ. But he is a physician, fond of literature and science, and has acquired a sufficient knowledge of English to enable him to prosecute his studies in that tongue without the constant presence of a teacher. He is not a man to remain idle, or without an object. Although he speaks of Hindoostan in connection with his family descent, his dress and personal appearance give a fine specimen, decidedly Afghan in character. He holds in Jageer certain defined shares of Government revenue.

Alif Khan Bahadoor is a landowner in the vicinity of Shikarpoor city, whose reputation has rather been that of the sword than reaping-hook. Son of Nuwab Khan, inhabitant of the village of Zerkhail, of the Tahreen division of Afghans, he did good service with the British troops, both before and after the conquest, and was employed under Lieutenant Amiel so far back as 1839. In 1843, and subsequently, his brave and useful efforts have been highly extolled. He received a sword of honour from Government, and the title of Bahadoor from the Governor General of India. He was formerly Native Adjutant of Police, but is now unemployed. The Court of Directors have sanctioned his holding land on a rent-free tenure up to the value of Rs. 1,000 per annum; and he receives credit for that amount in the accounts with Government, on the Zemindaree produce of his estate of Zerkhail.

The title of Mukhdoom signifies a master or teacher in religion. Mahomed Akil and his direct ancestors have been men of eminence, piety, and erudition, and have been highly esteemed by the Afghan Kings. They have held shares of revenue under the Talpoors for many years, and the remissions and favourable terms granted them by the Doorance court date from the reign of the first monarch, Ahmed Shah.

When Shah Soojah paid his untimely visit to Shikarpoor in 1834, he did not forget to leave a memento of his implied sovereignty on the west bank of the Indus, in the shape of a royal Sunud for Mukhdoom Abdool Khalik, who then wore the turban of family supremacy. Abdool Khalik died in 1852, and was succeeded in the turban by Mahomed Akil. The present incumbent is a man of superior scholastic attainments, whose intellect must soar successfully, if unfettered by prejudice.

Among the more respectable and wealthy Bunnias who inhabit Shikarpoor at the present day, half a dozen may be named as meriting notice. Others, though equally esteemed, are not included, to avoid prolixity. Seths Juyut Sing, Ram Dass, Dwarka Dass, Chuman Dass, and Duya Ram, Lohanas, and Narayun Dass, Bhatia, are old-standing acquaintances of the British Sirkar, in the person of its representatives at the capital of Upper Sind. To see and hear these individuals to advantage, we should allow them their prejudices in minutiæ in private life, and talk to them on general subjects of commerce and policy. Juyut Sing looks and moves the aristocratic banker and merchant every inch, and his language does not belie his appearance and bearing. Affable, obliging, and intelligent, a stranger might wonder to find such a man permanently located on the borders of a desert. Yet, with all this, he is not the Juyut Sing of former days, when his partner Chutur Mull and he were revealed to the world by Burnes, as amid the most opulent merchants of Shikarpoor. His feud with his old comrade is bitter and undying, and the dissension bids fair to sap the foundation of their joint establishment. When plaintiffs appear in court, and sue the firm, there is no combined responsive argument to check the adversary. When the firm sue a debtor, the latter takes refuge in the want of unanimity exhibited upon the plaint, and contrives to find an exit in a nonsuit or dismissal. To trace this calamity to its source would be no grateful task; for we read upon the outward aspect, that such a state of things did not exist under bygone governments. It is no new discovery to find internal commotion arise among individuals in a household, on the introduction of an unusual parental solicitude for the general welfare.

Ram Dass, Koonbatee, is a portly, stalwart personage, with whom it requires to seek some prolonged acquaintance, before forming a judgment on the character of this very useful, shrewd Sahookar.

Dwarka Dass has the reputation of great wealth. Chuman Dass is a worthy, logical, prosy member of the Punchayet, provoking from his didactic method of arriving at a conclusion; and Duya Ram, the Punjaubee, is one of that happy class of men, whom to see is sufficient to consider respectable. The short, rotund figure, extremely white hair and turban of the latter, are in perfect unison with his courtly, agreeable

address. Narayun Dass is a rich, speculating Bunnia, constantly in communication with the authorities in the matter of advances and contracts for revenne, or other public matters.

In closing the present Memoir, the occasion would appear fitting to remark upon the advantages which may be derived from communicating with the more intelligent of these Shikarpoor Sahookars, on the results of their commercial experience. They visit countries, and keep up acquaintance with current political occurrences which are but very partially known to their rulers. They have certain sources of information, to which others cannot possibly have access. Shrewd, observing, enterprising men return constantly to the city of their birth, from long residence in Samarkand, Bokhara, Herat, and many other equally important places. On their arrival, they are capable of affording valuable information, wholly independent of their private commercial dealings; and the heads of houses who receive these, their agents, would willingly communicate their unprofessional gleanings to others, if they knew to whom, and to what extent. It is not that many events of political interest are not now made public by this means; but were a system established, and encouragement given to the system, it is deferentially submitted, that much would be brought to light for the advantage of Government, both as regards science and politics, which is now hidden in a sealed book.

To prove the truth of this supposition, the communications of Juyut Sing, recorded in the end of 1843, regarding movements at Kandahar, and the willingness which he and others have evinced, and continue to evince, to supply all particulars of intelligence from that quarter, may be held sufficient evidence.

APPENDIX A,

ALLUDED TO AT PAGE 10 OF THE PRECEDING MEMOIR.

GENEALOGICAL TREE OF THE KULHORAS AND DAOODPOTRAS.

Prefix—Meyan.

Affix—Khan.

1220. Jam Chanoo, or Jhinia.

1240. Mahomed, 1254.

SUPPOSED CONTEMPORARY SOVEREIGNS.	
DELHI (and SCIND).	PERSIA AND KANDAHAR.
Shah-ood-dun Mahomed. (The Seventh.)	Tuli Khan, son of Jenghis.
Alla-ood-dun Kulje. (The Seventh.)	Ghazan Khan.
Mahomed Toghlick. (Jam Banee.)	Aseerly; Hussun Kouchuk, Ashruff.
Mahomed Toghlick. (Jam Ali Sher, Tuttacher.)	Timoor.
Syud Mahomed. (Jam Toghlick.)	Shah Rokh.
Sheebly Lohr. (Jam Funda.)	Son of Ulegh Hasan.
Feeshin Lohr. (Jam Feroz Shah Beg, Lughora.)	Ismael Soofee.
Akbar. (Meyan Beg, Mahomed Shah Tooar, Son, Purbhee.)	Shah Tamoor.
Akbar. (Meyan Ghazee Beg, Turkan.)	Shah Abbas. Emperor, Ghengeez (Kandahar.)
Shah Jehan. (Usurper.)	Shah Abbas (Proto not Kandahar).
Aurungzebe. (Usurper.)	Akbar II. Shah Soolaman.
Aurungzebe, Shah Alum, Jehandar Shah. (Usurper)	Sultan Hussein Meer Vah (Kandahar). Mahomed (Kandahar and Persia).
Mahomed Shah, Alum Shah, Alumgeer II. (Nasr Mahomed, Kulloon.)	Nadir Shah.
Shah Alum II. (Kulloon.)	Ahmed Shah, Dooranee.
British Government. (Kulloon.)	Timoor Shah, Shahi Zeman Soojah, and Mahomed.
1850.	

III. Thulloo.	1210.	**1220.**	
V. Shah Mahomed.	1300.	**1320.**	
VII. Hasan.	1320.	**1360.**	
IX. Tuhur.	1400.		
XI. Khan.	1440.		
XIII. Salah.	1480.		
XV. Cujun.	1520.		
XVII. [illegible]	[illegible]		
XIX. Dawd.	1650.		
XXI. (b) Abdul Mahomed.	1857.		
XXII. Nasur Mahomed.	1886.		
XXV. Jam Mahomed.	1886.		
XXV. (b) Nasr Mahomed.	1778.		
XXV. (c) Nasr Mahomed.	1778.		
XXVII. (b) Mahomed Dawd.	1778.		
XXVII. Nasr Mahomed.	1778.		
XXVII. (c) Ghulam Hussain.	1778.		
XXIX. Mahomed Murad.	1846.		
XXIX. (b) Alab, 1752.	1778.		
XXIX. (c) Ghulam Shah.	1778.		
XXIX. (d) Ghulam Nubee.	1778.		
XXIX. (e) Abdool Nubee.	1846.		
XXIX. (f) Shah Ali, 1772-74.	1846.		
XXXI. Mahomed Soobanee.	1778.		
XXXI. Mahomed.	1778.		
XXXIII. Nasr Mahomed.	1778.		

IV. Dawd.	1310.	**1280.**	
VI. Mahomed.	1360.	**1320.**	
VIII. Dawd.	1400.	**1360.**	
X. Salah.	1440.		
XII. Hybat.	1480.		
XIV. Jahar.	1520.		
XVIII. Jam [illegible]	[illegible]		
XX. Mahomed, 1612.			By "Bahadoor."
XXIII. Feroz.			
XXIV. Bahadoor.			
XXVI. Mosharuf.			
XXVIII. Sultan Mahomed, 1716.			
XXX. (a) Futeh.			
XXX. (b) Mosharuf.	1778.		
XXX. (c) Murad 1.	1778.		
XXXII. John, or Murad II.	1811.		
XXXIV. (b) Abdulla, or Sadik II.	1846.		
XXXIV. Wahid Buksh, or Mosharuf.	1846.		
XXXVI. Bahia Tur, or Murad III.	1846.		
XXXVIII. Sujat Khan.	1846.		
XXXVIII. Sujat Yar.	1846.		

Left hand column—Year of accession.
Right hand column—Year of death, or deposition.
The year within the square is that of the erigit of a few months, or the occurrence of some remarkable event to which the Chief, to whom it relates, is known to have taken part; if both columns are shaded, there is no origin to record; if no double columns at all, particulars are not known. The year outside the square is to mark the probable period. One column shaded shows alive/family as to date. The black figures (as **1220**, &c.) are the result of the most recent inquiries, without reference to former correction.

MEMORANDUM WITH REFERENCE TO THE GENEALOGICAL TREE.

I—II. JAM CHENNA; MAHOMED.—I have followed Captain MacMurdo in doubtful points, because his Memoir of the Kulhoras is generally so much more sensibly accurate than the other authorities which I have been enabled to consult on this subject. But I hold it doubtful whether the Tohfut-ool-Kirain, from which his information is chiefly drawn, is speaking of Jhunia or Mahomed (I. or II.), in describing the happy man who had twelve wives, of whom at least seven are shown to be the daughters (respectively) of seven Rands, who proceeded to Mooltan in the days of Nasir-ood-deen Kubachu. That prince, Ferishta says, reigned in Sind from about 1204 to 1226; and my own inclination would lead me to correct the chronology of the foregoing table, by commencing with A. D. 1220 for Jam Chenna, substituting 1240 for 1204 (Captain MacMurdo's date), for his successor, and so on up to Adum Shah, or 1575; allowing less for each generation than here supposed. Lashar, the founder of the Lasharee Beloochees, is also mentioned as a brother of Daood (No. IV.).

III. IBRAHIM.—According to Shahamut Ali, there should be a Kulhora Khan, in lieu of Ibrahim, here, ninth in descent from whom is Adum Shah. But the intelligent historian of the Daoodpotras and Sikhs has not studied chronology so well as English, and I will explain my reason for deserting his conclusions; which have, to say truth, however, been useful in many other points. It is this: he makes Adum Shah flourish in 1475, and Chenna Khan, his ancestor of ten whole generations before (whom we now discover in the beginning of the twelfth century), is made to pay his respects personally to Shahzada Moorad, grandson of the great Akbar, who died in 1604! This is reversing the generally received order of things with a vengeance. For much the same cause, we will have nothing to say to Ahmed VI. of Egypt, whom the same annalist brings to Sind to father the Daoodpotras.

XXIX. (*b*) ATAR KHAN.—This chief, and Meer Jam Ninda Talpoor, were hostages at the Persian court, as well as the other two sons of Noor Mahomed, mentioned in the body of the Memoir. Atar Khan, however, did not accompany his brothers on the return of Nadir, but was sent to the camp of Sirdar Tamasp, when the latter appeared on the Sind frontier, to demand satisfaction for certain outrages committed against the authority of his royal master.

XXIX. (*c*) GOOLAM SHAH.—Perhaps the greatest of the Kulhoras; but the position is too doubtful to give him other than a small niche in the Oriental statue

gallery. The value set upon mere wealth by this prince was enough to lower him in the opinions of more enlightened and civilized courts than that of Sind. It is related in a small volume, entitled the "Tareekhe Beloochi," that an Afghan horse-dealer once asked him Rs. 60,000 as the price of a single horse, and that the Kulhora actually paid the amount from his treasury, for no other motive than lest a refusal should detract from his sovereign character. Were such a line of policy common to European States, the royal arms above a shop door would be rather indicative of capital than craft.

XXIX. (*f*) SADIK ALI.—The merely nominal reign of a puppet. The particulars of the transfer of the Sind government from the Kulhora to the Talpoor are too well known to be here detailed. Moreover, Shikarpoor could have been but little affected by the change, as it was, at the time, under Afghan rule.

APPENDIX B,

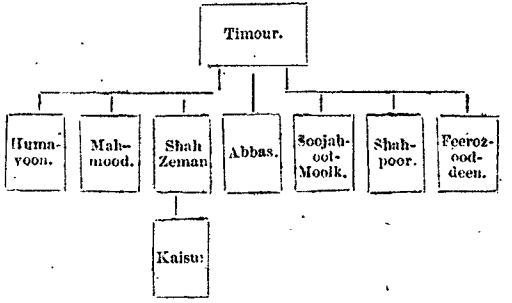
ALLUDED TO AT PAGE 20 OF THE PRECEDING MEMOIR.

Memorandum showing the Governors of Shikarpoor during the Reign of the Kandahar Kings.

No.	Name of Sovereign or Ruler.	Year of the King's Accession.	Year of the King's Death or Deposition.	Governors. No.	Name.	Race.	Years of Age.	Period of Government. Yrs.	Mos.	Remarks, chiefly from Native MSS. and Works, and on good Local Authority.
I.	**Ahmed Shah.** Nadir Shah had scarcely fallen before the sword of the assassin Saleh Beg, when Ahmed Khan Abdalee, one of his generals, collecting together all the sinews of war at his command, hastened to return to his native Afghanistan. Son of a mountain chief of the tribe Abdal, he had been taken prisoner in childhood by Nadir, and had risen from the minor post of Yesawul, or special attendant and messenger, to the high office of treasurer, possessing himself of Kandahar, Kabool, and Lahore. He was met on the road to Delhi by Prince Ahmed, son of Mahomed Shah, and forced to retrace his steps. But this retreat was to a kingdom of his own formation in the land of his birth. In 1749, he made a new inroad from the Punjaub, and again in 1751-52, dictating, on the latter occasion, terms to the Emperor, at Lahore. In 1756, he reached and plundered Delhi. In 1759, he repeated his deadly visit, and made the imperial city his head quarters during a series of bold military operations. The year 1760 was a sore period for the inhabitants, whose despair was at its	A. D. 1747 A. H. 1160	A. D. 1773 A. H. 1187	1	Boghra Khan.	Noorzaye ..	64	5	0	A brave and politic man, and good Governor for the people. He adjusted litigation with impartiality, and according to the letter of the law. He was skilful and successful in the eradication of evil-disposed persons.
				2	Rahman Khan	Noorzaye ..	50	5	0	One who cared not for dispensing justice, administering to the wants of the poor, or destroying the wicked.
				3	Abdool Ruhim Khan.	Bamzaye ..	64	7	0	Much as the last.

	height, when the Mahrattas prepared to face the Abdalees at Paniput. Ahmed Shah was again victorious. A battle had been fought with scarce a parallel in the annals of India for carnage and ferocity; and the conqueror returned to his Kandahar dominion with the proud consciousness that the throne of the feeble Shah Alum had been his own if he had needed it. But Nadir had shown him an example of treatment, and he could afford to be as generous as his predecessor to the inglorious descendants of the great Timour. Ahmed Shah's incursion into Sind appears to have been on quitting the Punjaub in 1752, when he advanced as far as Sehwistan, to enforce payment of the tribute imposed upon the Kulhoras. Captain MacMurdo says 1754. The grave of this monarch at Kandahar is regarded with veneration: it was (and may still be so) a place of sanctuary for any who had killed his neighbour under the law of retaliation.			4	Mehrab Khan.	Barukzaye Khilzye.	45	7 0	Much the same.
II.	TIMOUR SHAH. Ahmed. Timour. Sooleman. Sekunder. On the death of Ahmed Shah, he was succeeded by his eldest son, Timour. The	A. D. 1773 A. H. 1187	A. 1, A. 120		Goolam Sideek Khan.	Unknown ..	60	9 0	A wise, clever man, and a poet. He paid great attention to the agricultural condition of the country, improved and dug canals in Gurhee Yaseen, Mahomedabagh, Mehlanee, Bukhtawurpoor, &c. &c. After his government in Shikarpoor, he was appointed Soobedar of Bukkur. He received

No.	Name of Sovereign or Ruler.	Year of the King's Accession.	Year of the King's Death or Deposition.	Governors. No.	Name.	Race.	Years of Age.	Period of Government. Yrs.	Mos.	Remarks, chiefly from Native MSS. and Works, and on good Local Authority.
	Wuzeer, Shah Wulee, made an attempt in favour of the second son(his own son-in-law) Sooleman, who, with his brother Sekunder, had been imprisoned during the latter years of the deceased monarch's reign; but his life was sacrificed to his selfish ambition, and the only object gained was a legacy of enmity to the new king, who, to avoid its consequences, transferred the seat of government from Kandahar to Kabool. This reign was remarkable for three expeditions to Mooltan, owing to Sikh inroads, the last being commanded by the king in person; a royal demonstration against Sind in support of Abdool Nubee Kulhora, and a marching parade, with like meaning, under Payenda, or Surfuraz Khan, the Barukzaye; also for a disturbance in Toorkistan, entailing a dearly bought victory over Moorad Beg, an unquelled outbreak of Azad Khan in Kashmere, and the revolt of a rebellious subject, Urslan Khan, at the Khaibur. Timour Shah died on the 18th May 1793, of a stroke of paralysis, by some extolled, by many disparaged—perhaps, on the whole, regretted. [The above information is derived from the detailed Memoir in the Tareekhe Ahmedee.]									some thousand rupees from the Governors of Shikarpoor monthly.
				6	Saduk Khan, son of Meerza Khan.	Alkozaye.	45	12	0	There was a famine in his days, the grain in the granaries having become dried up and black. All the realization was on Buttai. His father, Meerza Khan, was Governor of Kashmere, and the Derajat. Timour Shah had his ears bored, that he should not become rebellious in the climate of Kashmere, upon the principle that

									whenever he anointed the ears, he should remember, on touching them, what the warning implied.
III.	ZEMAN SHAH. (*Tree from the Tareekhe Ahmedee.*)  Zeman Shah is described to have been more of a scholar than soldier; naturally sedate, gentle, and confiding, yet, withal, ever tempted into acts of invasion and aggression. Perpetually abroad in pursuit of conquest, a throne acquired by intrigue and faction made his presence at home an essential to his security. The result was failure in enterprise, perplexity in defensive measures, and an overthrow, attended with extraordinary severity. One of those many eastern potentates, who are swayed for good or evil by the advice of ministers and favourites, he suffered himself to be led by the Wuzeer, Wufadar Khan, into the	A. D. 1793 A. H. 1207	A. D. 1801 A. H. 1216	7	Sher Mahomed Khan.	Populzaye.	50	3 0	A good, brave man, and a just lawgiver.
				8	Rehmut Oollah Khan.	Kulundurzaye.	50	2 0	As the last.
				9	Shurbut Khan.	Populzaye.	40	3 0	As the last.

No.	Name of Sovereign or Ruler.	Year of the King's Accession.	Year of the King's Death or Deposition.	Governors. No.	Name.	Race.	Years of Age.	Period of Government. Yrs.	Period of Government. Mos.	Remarks, chiefly from Native MSS. and Works, and on good Local Authority.
	commission of crime as well as folly. Among the greatest stains upon his character (a strange anomaly, were it not that of an Oriental prince), was his treatment of Hoomayoon, and the death of Payenda Khan, the ancient leader of his sire's army, and a light in his council chamber;—the father of the twenty-two Barukzaye Sirdars, who have supplied so many noted names of Afghan history. Shah Zeman, defeated, imprisoned, and blinded by the eldest son of the latter nobleman, and his own half-brother Mahmood, left his shortlived dominion, to be seized by his relative, and he himself died a miserable exile at Loodiana not twenty years ago.			10	Dost Mahomed Khan.	Populzaye ..	50	2	0	As the last.
IV.	Shah Soojah-ool-Moolk. A mere assumption of royal titles, with sufficient success to be recorded here.	A. D. 1801 A. H. 1216	A. D. 1801 A. H. 1216							
V.	Mahmood Shah. Shortly after the demise of Timour Shah, the solid monarchy of the great Ahmed had weakened into a broken and divided State,	A. D. 1801 A. H. 1216	A. D. 1803 A. H. 1218	11	Shah Sowar Khan.	Barukzaye.	50	0	6	A good, brave man, but deaf.

the principal cities in which, such as Kabool, Kandahar, Herat, Ghuzni, and Peshawur, would mark, as it were, separate chiefdoms, held by the more successful pretenders to supremacy. The prestige was for Kabool above all others. It had become synonymous with the seat of royalty; and its Bala Hissar was, perhaps, more eagerly sought after than the whole beautiful province of Kashmere. Futeh Khan Barukzaye won this important stronghold for Prince Mahmood, who had, according to some authorities, become the legitimate heir to the crown after the death of his elder brother Hoomayoon in 1798; for Shah Zeman can only be considered in the light of an usurper. The Shahzada was equally successful at Peshawur and Herat, and Kandahar had long since acknowledged his power. There was almost a prospect of consolidated government being restored to Afghanistan. But Mahmood was little more than a weak sensualist, and knew better how to lose than consolidate an empire. His former opponent, Soojah, on the other hand, while reduced to vagrancy and destitution, had consoled himself with the conviction that opportunity was the richest jewel he could possess, and only required a steady search to be found. The expected moment arrived ere long. The conduct of Mahmood had produced intestine disorder at the capital. Futeh Khan made a defence for his master; but the popular tide had turned; the king was a prisoner in the hands of his people, and in July 1803 Shah Soojah was paramount. The conqueror gave his brother a free pardon, on receiving a renunciation of all future claims to the throne.

12	Imam Buksh Khan.	Mogul ..	60	0	6	He was a Sheeah, and patronized Taboots in Shikarpoor. But the Oolema and Kazees of the Soonees having assembled, with the aid of the royal Tehseeldars they attacked Imam Buksh, destroyed his Tabdots, and punished the maker of them severely. The Oolema complained to the king, who caused him to be trampled under the feet of an elephant.
13	Sirdar Mahomed Azim Khan.	Barukzaye ..	54	1	0	A good, brave, and just man.
14	Budul Khan.	Mogul	60	0	8	A mild and benevolent man, who ruled justly.
15	Dewan Sukkoo Sing.	Hindoo ..	50	0	4	A good, intelligent man.

No.	Name of Sovereign or Ruler.	Year of the King's Accession.	Year of the King's Death or Deposition.	Governors. No.	Name.	Race.	Years of Age.	Period of Government. Yrs.	Mos.	Remarks, chiefly from Native MSS. and Works, and on good Local Authority.
VI.	Soojah-ool-Moolk (the second time).	A. D. 1803 / A. H. 1218	A. D. 1810 / A. H. 1225	16	Moiz-ood-deen Khan.	Populzaye..	60	2	0	A valiant man, punished malefactors, and protected his subjects.
				17	Nuwab Mud-dud Khan.	Populzaye..	45	1	0	A good, charitable man, and a just law-giver; resides now at Shikarpoor, and holds a Puttadaree share under the British Government.
				18	Budul Khan.	Mogul	60	1	0	As the last in character.
				19	Jahangeer Khan.	Mogul	40	1	0	His government was not of much importance.
				20	Pavenda Khan.	Populzaye..	44	1	0	A brave man.

Shah Soojah.

Timour.

Shah Soojah-ool-Moolk was not destined to occupy the throne of his elder brother's fortune for many years, or to live at any time in the secure enjoyment of his kingly possession. The ambitions of his nephews, Kamran and Kaisur, and the jealous ability of the Wuzeer, Futch Khan, were continually disturbing his mind with real and imaginary peril and disaster, and his leniency as an Afghan sovereign rendered his position more precarious after victory than during the open enmity of a battle-field. His visit to Sind in search of a tribute, payment of which had not unnaturally been delayed by the Ameers, must have been in 1805. There are Shikarpoor Sunuds or Rakkams of the Shah, dated 1804-08-09-10-21. During his absence from

Kabool in this country, Prince Kaisur and the Barukzaye Wuzeer had seized Peshawur. The king, however, marched straight upon the city, attacked, and overthrew them. This success was followed by another at Kabool, over the troops of the deposed Mahmood. That unprincipled tyrant longed for a new career of tyranny, and heeded not what broken vows and promises were in the path betwixt him and the throne. In 1809, fortune deserted the monarch. Defeat and treachery then became his lot. For six years of sovereignty he had to undergo another six years of dependence and misery. A captive in Kashmere, a butt and victim at Lahore, a painful spectacle of regal vagrancy amongst the hills at Jamoo, he at last took shelter under the British flag at Loodiana. None of the subsequent attempts to regain his lost empire were successful, until the Government, whose protection he had claimed, took up his cause, and replaced him on the throne in 1839. He was shot at Kabool in 1842: in any other than an Oriental country the act would have been that of a murderer and regicide; in Afghanistan it was the usual method of terminating a distasteful reign.

		21	Mahomed Raza Khan.	Mogul	60	1 0	A clever and capable man in government.

No.	Name of Sovereign or Ruler.	Year of the King's Accession.	Year of the King's Death or Deposition.	Governors. No.	Name.	Race.	Years of Age.	Period of Government. Yrs.	Period of Government. Mos.	Remarks, chiefly from Native MSS. and Works, and on good Local Authority.
VII.	Mahomed Shah (the second time). Mahmood. Kamran. Jahangeer. Came to the throne a second time under the auspices of Futeh Khan Barukzaye, whose clan now began to be conspicuous among the political heroes of modern Afghan annals. The ambition and enterprise of the Wuzeer drew upon him the enmity of prince Kamran, and the history of this period is that of an anarchy and civil war, which effectually revolutionized the whole country. Mahmood became a mere nominal sovereign. Futeh Khan, to whom he owed his crown, was blinded by the Shahzada, in revenge, it is	A. D. 1810 A. H. 1225	A. D. 1821 A. H. 1236	22	Abdoolla Khan.	Syud	45	0	4	A good, intelligent, wise man.
				23	Nasir Khan.	Alkozaye ..	40	0	4	A good man.
				24	Sirdar Abdool Sumud Khan.	Barukzaye ..	50	2	0	A good man and Governor.
				25	Mahomed Raza Khan.	Mogul	60	0	2	A clever and capable man. He left his son in Shikarpoor, and went to pay his respects to Munsoor Khan Barukzaye at Dehra Gazee Khan. The latter, however, treated him roughly, fined and imprisoned him.

	said, for an insult to the person of his sister. The same remarkable man was afterwards assassinated in the most barbarous manner in the presence of both Mahmood and his son. The king lived to rue the consequences of his own utter incapability and cruel apathy, in having to depend upon the caprice of a profligate and selfish prince, in lieu of the counsels and right arm of a shrewd, brave, and powerful minister. Mahomed Azim and Dost Mahomed, Sher Dil Khan with his brothers of Kandahar, amid a host of Barukzaye and other chiefs, mostly those of the lineage of Payenda Khan, rose to deprive Mahmood of the choicest of his cities, and he was finally compelled to fly to the westward for security, reserving the family title until his decease. He was succeeded in the government of Herat by Kamran, aided by a new Wuzeer, Yar Mahomed. But though a Suddozaye held that important frontier post, the monarchical power of the tribe had dwindled in Afghanistan, and the prestige of dominion had virtually passed away from the dynasty of Ahmed Shah Dooranee.			26	Munsoor Khan (Naibs Taj Mahomed, Saiful Khan, Muksood Khan).	Barukzaye..	65	8 0	A good and just man, clever, and prudent; behaved well to the people and Sahookars of Shikarpoor.
				27	Sultan Mahomed Khan.	Augezaye ..	25	0 2	Clever and intelligent; a man of standing and respectability. The Oolema were his friends.
				28	Abdool Sumud Khan.	Bamzaye ..	60	0 2	A benevolent and just man, skilled in law.
VIII.	Mahmood Shah (nominally in Herat).	....	....	29	Muksood Khan.	Barukzaye.	65	0 4	Very covetous, and severe. The Kandahar Chief imprisoned him to obtain some monies, which he refused to give up. At length they killed him with a battle-axe.
				30	Taj Mahomed, son of Munsoor Khan.	Barukzaye.	40	0 5	A valiant and just man.

No.	Name of Sovereign or Ruler.	Year of the King's Accession.	Year of the King's Death or Deposition.	Governors. No.	Name.	Race.	Years of Age.	Period of Government. Yrs.	Mos.	Remarks, chiefly from Native MSS. and Works, and on good Local Authority.
IX.	Mahmood Shah and Ayoob Shah (Shikarpoor). N. B.—The son of this Suddozaye prince is now a pensioner of the British Government, and resides temporarily at Shikarpoor. His designation is Shahzada Peer Mahomed.	....	....	31	Shahzada Mahomed Timour Shah.	Suddozaye.	20	0	8	A just Governor. Preceded his father in the retreat upon Shikarpoor, after the contest with Mahomed Azim Khan, near Peshawur, in 1819.
				32	Shah Soojah-ool-Moolk.	Suddozaye.	40	1	4	The king himself was in Shikarpoor for the time stated. He was tyrannous to his subjects; ejected by Mahomed Azim at the Meers' request.
X.	Mahomed Azim Khan. A king-maker, as well as his brother the Wuzeer Futeh Khan, and virtually ruler in Khorasan.	....	....	33	Moolla Mahomed Khan.	Ghilzaye.	45	0	7	Very brave, and religious; he was kind to his subjects, and severe upon malefactors. Appointed by Sirdar Mahomed Azim Khan.

XI.	SHER DIL KHAN, and SIRDARS OF KANDAHAR. N. B.—Mahomed Azim died in 1823. Dost Mahomed did not obtain the supremacy in Kabool till 1826.	....	....	34	Sirdar Ruhim Dil Khan.	Barukzaye.	40	2	0	A very kind man, and partial to learned Oolema. His Naib, Dost Mahomed, attended to the affairs of his government. According to other authority, avaricious, indolent, and weak-minded.
XII.	SIRDARS of KANDAHAR.	....	....	35	Abdool Munsoor Khan.	Augezaye.	35	0	5	A good man, of excellent qualities. The Meers took possession of the government when under his incumbency.

APPENDIX C.

FORM No. II.

Abstract of the Census Returns of Upper Sind, Shikarpoor Collectorate, taken on the 20th of March 1854.

SHIKARPOOR TOWN.

Public buildings, Musjids, &c.	340
Wells of pukka bricks	97
Houses:	
Reed huts, mat sheds, &c.	1,233
Kucha bricks	2,498
Pukka bricks	4
Two or more stories	2,189
Occupation of Householders:	
Cultivators	360
Carpenters	131
Potters	27
Traders	75
Others	4,629
Total..	5,222
Occupation of Persons who are not Householders, but live in the houses of others:	
Cultivators	897
Servants	403
Barbers	82
Sepoys	112
Others	24,299
Total..	25,793

CASTES AND RELIGIONS.

Belooch Mahomedans:	Males.	Females.
Children	2,004	1,791
Persons of full age	3,346	3,222
Old persons	261	305
Carried over,..	5,611	5,318

Sheikh Mahomedans :	Brought over...	5,611	5,318
Children		28	29
Persons of full age		30	33
Old persons		2	20
Koreish Mahomedans :			
Children		53	61
Persons of full age		94	64
Old persons		13	19
Bunnia Hindoos :			
Children		3,843	3,226
Persons of full age		5,585	6,067
Old persons		251	668
	Total, Castes and Religions..		31,015
Agricultural Implements			343
Cattle :			
Camels			46
Horses			396
Cows and oxen			1,600
Buffaloes			544
Sheep			116
Goats			1,121
Donkeys and mules			337
Other cattle			4

FORM No. III.

Abstract of Occupations, showing the Number of Castes by which each Occupation is followed, in the Town of Shikarpoor.

Cultivators	Syuds and Koreish	3	
	Musulmans	1,110	
	Hindoos	144	
			1,257
Beggars	Syuds and Koreish	52	
	Musulmans	132	
	Hindoos	341	
			525
Labourers	Musulmans	725	
	Syuds	1	
	Sheikhs	7	
	Hindoos	912	
			1,645
	Carried over...		3,427

		Brought over...		3,427
Herdsmen	Musulmans	...		20
Boatmen	Ditto	...		10
Fishermen	Ditto	...		50
Dyers	Ditto	92		
	Hindoos	15		
				107
Scholars	Hindoos	1,090		
	Syuds and Koreish	12		
	Sheikhs	3		
	Musulmans	357		
				1,462
Tailors	Musulmans	173		
	Sheikhs	1		
	Hindoos	2		
				176
Woodcutters	Musulmans	..		73
Carpenters	Ditto	237		
	Hindoos	11		
				248
Sepoys	Syuds	4		
	Sheikhs	5		
	Hindoos	15		
	Musulmans	106		
				130
Barbers	Musulmans	..		104
Shoemakers	Ditto	..		370
Musicians	Ditto	..		27
Cotton Spinners	Ditto	..		100
Potters	Ditto	..		59
Weavers	Ditto	537		
	Syuds	2		
				539
Merchants	Syuds and Koreish	3		
	Musulmans	69		
	Hindoos	91		
				163
Goldsmiths	Goldsmiths	2		
	Sheikhs	1		
	Hindoos	203		
				206
Bricklayers	Musulmans	..		93
Blacksmiths	Ditto	..		98
Puggees	Ditto	..		2
Butchers	Ditto	..		55
Oilmen	Ditto	..		26
Servants	Ditto	201		
	Sheikhs	6		
		Carried over...	207	7,545

		Brought over...	207	7,545
Servants	Syuds		3	
	Hindoos		203	
				413
Camel Herdsmen	Musulmans		..	17
Shopkeepers	Hindoos		1,954	
	Musulmans		17	
				1,971
Fishmongers	Musulmans		..	100
Braziers	Ditto		5	
	Hindoos		22	
				27
Soap-makers	Musulmans		..	2
Teachers	Ditto		31	
	Hindoos		12	
	Syuds and Koreish		15	
				58
Sweepers	Musulmans		..	99
Milkmen	Hindoos		..	37
Farriers	Musulmans		..	3
Washermen	Ditto		..	578
Native Doctors	Hindoos		..	17
String-makers	Musulmans		..	28
Comb-makers	Ditto		..	1
Law Officers (Kazees)	Ditto		..	4
Agents (Dulals)	Hindoos		..	291
Confectioners	Ditto		..	43
Silver Sifters	Musulmans		..	16
Joiners	Ditto		3	
	Hindoos		1	
				4
Paper-makers	Musulmans		92	
	Syuds		5	
				97
Millers	Hindoos		82	
	Musulmans		59	
				141
Dancing Girls	Musulmans		..	90
Shepherds	Ditto		..	20
Bakers	Ditto		6	
	Syuds		5	
				11
Spinners	Musulmans		49	
	Hindoos		100	
				149
Pundits	Hindoos		..	4
Vukeels (Pleaders)	Ditto		33	
		Carried over...	33	11,766

		Brought over...	33	11,766
Vukeels (Pleaders)	Musulmans		4	
	Sheikhs		1	
				38
Embroiderers	Musulmans		49	
	Sheikhs		8	
				57
Dawk Runners	Musulmans		11	
	Hindoos		10	
				21
Gosains	Hindoos		..	105
Bracelet-makers	Musulmans		7	
	Hindoos		10	
				17
Leather Bag-makers	Musulmans		..	8
Lapidaries	Ditto		..	83
Bookbinders.....	Ditto		..	4
Knitters	Ditto		..	12
Wax-cloth Makers	Ditto		..	16
Grain Measurers	Hindoos		..	8
Mooftees	Musulmans		..	4
Peers	Ditto		..	4
Necklace-makers	Hindoos		..	31
Powder Manufacturers....	Musulmans		..	8
Tape-makers	Ditto		..	2
Ink-makers.....	Ditto		..	7
Unoccupied.....	Syuds and Koreish		199	
	Musulmans		4,615	
	Hindoos		13,880	
	Sheikhs		110	
				18,804
		Total, agreeing with Total of Form No. II....		31,015

FORM No. IV.

Abstract of Castes, showing how each Caste is occupied, in the Town of Shikarpoor.

Syuds and Koreish.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Children	53	61	114
Full Age	94	64	158
Old Persons...	13	19	32
Total...	160	144	304

Cultivators	3
Beggars	52
Labourers.....	1
Scholars	12
Sepoys.....	4
Weavers	2
Merchants	3
Carried over..	77

Sheikhs.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Children	28	29	57
Full Age	30	33	63
Old Persons...	2	20	22
Total...	60	82	142

Musulmans.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Children ...	2004	1791	3795
Full Age ...	3346	3222	6568
Old Persons.	261	305	566
Total...	5611	5318	10929

Brought over..	77	
Servants	3	
Teachers	15	
Paper-makers	5	
Bakers	5	
Unoccupied	199	
		304
Labourers.....	7	
Scholars	3	
Tailors	1	
Sepoys	5	
Goldsmiths	1	
Servants	6	
Vukeels.....	1	
Embroiderers	8	
Unoccupied	110	
		142
Cultivators	1,110	
Beggars	132	
Labourers.....	752	
Herdsmen.....	20	
Boatmen	10	
Fishermen	50	
Dyers	92	
Scholars	357	
Tailors.....	173	
Woodcutters	73	
Carpenters	237	
Barbers.....	104	
Shoemakers.....	370	
Musicians.....	27	
Cotton Cleaners	100	
Cutlers.....	59	
Sepoys	106	
Weavers	537	
Merchants	69	
Goldsmiths..	2	
Bricklayers	93	
Blacksmiths.....	98	
Puggees	2	
Butchers	55	
Painters	26	
Oilmen.....	20	
Servants	201	
Camel Herdsmen.....	17	
Shopkeepers.....	17	
Carried over..	4,909	446

Brought over..	4,909	446
Fishmongers	100	
Braziers	5	
Soap-makers	2	
Teachers	31	
Sweepers	99	
Farriers	3	
Washermen	578	
String-makers	28	
Law Officers (Kazees)	4	
Silver Sifters	16	
Joiners	3	
Paper-makers	92	
Millers	59	
Dancing Girls	90	
Shepherds	20	
Bakers	6	
Spinners	49	
Vukeels (Pleaders)	4	
Embroiderers	49	
Dawk Runners	11	
Bracelet-makers	7	
Leather Bag-makers	8	
Lapidaries	83	
Bookbinders	4	
Knitters	12	
Wax-cloth Makers	16	
Mooftees	4	
Powder Manufacturers	8	
Tape-makers	2	
Ink-makers	7	
Comb-makers	1	
Peers	4	
Unoccupied	4,615	
		10,929
Cultivators	144	
Beggars	341	
Labourers	885	
Dyers	15	
Scholars	1,090	
Tailors	2	
Carpenters	11	
Sepoys	15	
Merchants	91	
Goldsmiths	203	
Servants	203	
Carried over..	3,000	11,375

Hindoos.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Children ...	3843	3226	7069
Full Age ...	5585	6067	11652
Old Persons.	251	668	919
Total..	9679	9961	19640

Brought over..	3,000	11,375
Shopkeepers	1,954	
Braziers	22	
Teachers	12	
Milkmen	37	
Native Doctors	17	
Agents (Dulals)	291	
Confectioners	43	
Joiners	1	
Millers	82	
Spinners	100	
Pundits	4	
Vukeels (Pleaders)	33	
Dawk Runners	10	
Goseins	105	
Bracelet-makers	10	
Grain Measurers	8	
Necklace-makers	31	
Unoccupied	13,880	
		19,640
Total, agreeing with Total of Form No. II...		31,015

Return, prepared by the late Deputy Collector of Customs, showing the present Importance of Shikarpoor, in relation to the Commerce of Sind generally.

LAND TRADE, 1851–52.

The Imports across the land frontier of Sind amounted, during the year 1851-52, to Rupees 23,82,446, as follows :—

Through Shikarpoor Collectorate	Rs. 10,88,711
Through Hyderabad ditto	3,60,426
Through Kurrachee ditto	8,40,871
Through Thurr and Parkur ditto	92,438
Total	Rs. 23,82,446

Of which were received—

From Khorasan, and countries to the westward of Sind	Rs. 11,88,211
From Jeysulmere, and foreign states on the north and east of Sind...	4,97,451
From foreign states south of Sind	1,53,921
From British possessions on the right and left banks of the Indus ...	5,42,863
Total	Rs. 23,82,446

The principal articles imported during this period were :—

Wool, sheep	Rs.	6,67,227
Horses		2,07,600
Cotton, raw		1,46,001
Ghee		1,42,496
Piece Goods, cotton, silk, and woollen		1,73,010
Dyes and drugs		3,62,451
Grain and seeds		3,10,868
Fruit		68,276
Treasure		7,059
Other articles		2,97,458
Total	Rs.	23,82,446

The Exports during this year (1851-52) amount to Rs. 17,85,418, as follows :—

Through Shikarpoor Collectorate	Rs.	6,36,941
Through Hyderabad ditto		3,99,127
Through Kurrachee ditto		5,93,897
Through Thurr and Parkur ditto		1,55,453
Total	Rs.	17,85,418

Which were distributed as follows :—

To Khorasan, and countries west of Sind	Rs.	8,80,912
To Jeysulmere, and foreign states on the north and east of Sind		4,17,534
To foreign states south of Sind		2,64,430
To British possessions on the right and left banks of the Indus		2,22,542
Total	Rs.	17,85,418

The principal articles of this branch of our trade were :—

Piece Goods, cotton, silk, and woollen	Rs.	7,29,114
Metals, raw and manufactured		82,148
Grain and seeds		1,78,212
Ghee		2,34,037
Treasure		2,61,043
Other articles		3,00,864
Total	Rs.	17,85,418

MEMOIR ON THE SYUDS OF ROREE AND BUKKUR;

BY

CAPTAIN F. G. GOLDSMID,

37TH REGT. MADRAS N. I.

Submitted to Government in November 1854.

MEMOIR ON THE SYUDS OF ROREE AND BUKKUR.

I.—According to the Tohfut-ool-Kiran, Syud Mahomed Makkyee, Ruzuvee, the ancestor of the Syuds of Roree and Bukkur, was the son of Syud Mahomed Soojah, called "Sultan-ool-Arifeen." Syud Mahomed Soojah was an inhabitant of Mushed; from whence he went on a prilgrimage to the two sacred cities. On his way, visiting the Shaikh of Shaikhs, Shuhab-ood-deen Sohurwurdee,* he married his daughter, and had a son born to him in Mecca, named Mahomed Makkyee. After his return to Mushed, he died, and was buried at the Mosque of Imam Ruza. Syud Mahomed Makkyee came to Bukkur, and lived there. He was buried in the fort of Aruk. The Syuds of Bukkur derive their origin from him, and he is the first who took up his abode there. His descendants became men of considerable eminence.

No. I. of the annexed Genealogical Tree.

II.—Syud Budr-ood-deen, son of Sudr-ood-deen Khuteeb, may be traced in a successive line from Imam Ali Nukee. His descendants became men of celebrity in Roree. He gave his daughter in marriage to Syud Julal Bokharee, surnamed "The Red."†

Nos. V. II. of Tree.

This last-noted occurrence is supposed to have taken place towards the close of the seventh century.

III.—Meer Abool Ghys was noted among the grandees of Bukkur for for his counsel and piety (A. D. 800). When the people of Meerza Peer Mahomed, grandson of the Ameer Timour, came to the place, he first made his request to the Prophet, that his respectability should be preserved; and then proceeded to visit the

No. XVI. of Tree.

* A very noted Musulman Moorsheed, resident of Bagdad, amid whose disciples was Shaikh Buha-ood-deen Zukuria of Mooltan.

† Julal-ood-deen Bokharee, on crossing from Roree to Mooltan, is said to have had a vision, whereby he ascertained the Prophet's wishes, that he should marry two of the daughters of Syud Budr-ood-deen. The latter, having a conveniently similar vision on his part, the matter was soon arranged. The Julalee Fakeers are disciples of this melodramatic personage, and keep up the wild rites of the order to the present day.

Meerza.* That very night, it happened that the Meerza was ordered by his majesty (the Prophet) to treat his children with every respect; and after nine days, when he, the Syud, arrived in the prince's presence, so soon as the latter saw him, he rose and embraced him in the most friendly manner, caused him to sit by his side, and related his dream. Afterwards, on taking leave, he conferred on him Alore as Inam.

IV.—Syud Nasir-ood-deen, son of Syud Nizam-ood-deen Bukree,† was usually employed in music, and lived in Soondra. After his death, they could not convey his remains away, from their weight. His son Rookn-ood-deen (No. XXIII.) remembered his father's tastes, and caused a Surna, or clarion, to be brought. It was sounded up to Soondra. By the heavenly power, the coffin rose in the air, and no one could reach it, till it attained the place of burial, where it descended.

No. XV. of Tree.

V.—Syud Khan Ruzuvee was highly distinguished amid his brethren; and his son Meer Goolam Shah Moortuza (No. CXLVI.) added to, and surpassed the influence and eminence of his forefathers. On his death, he was succeeded by his son Meer Mahomed Syud (No. CLXVI.) or Saeed, living in 1767.

No. CXXVII. of Tree.

VI.—Syud Yacoob Khan Ruzuvee, one of the lineal descendants of Syud Meezan, in the days of Alumgeer, attained great eminence. He was Chief of Bukkur. His son Syud Sadut Ali (Sadik? No. CLIX.) Khan succeeded to the chiefdom. Meer Moortuza, deceased, was one of his sons; also Meer Jafur, entitled Yacoob Khan (No. CLXXIX.), who was a very great man, and kept up the dignity of his ancestry (1767).

No. CXXXIX. of Tree.

VII.—The same authority states, with reference to the two respective localities of Bukkur and Bukkar, that the ancient name of the former was "Farista." It was not known in the time of the Hindoo Rais; but after the desertion of Alore, the former prosperity of that place was transferred thither, and Alore became the substitute for the town of Bukkur. They say, that when Syud Mahomed Makkyee arrived there, it was in the morning (*Ar*-bukr), upon which he said, "Allah has ordained my morning in this blessed place." Afterwards, the name of Bukru became current for that spot; by degrees it changed into Bukkur. It is also related, that before this, when the servants asked the above-named Syud where his abode should be fixed, he said, "Where you

* This must have been on the march of Timour from Samarkand to Delhi. He is said to have reached the Indus on the 7th October 839. The point of crossing may be inferred by his turning *southward* to Mooltan, after gaining the left bank. It must be remembered, that Bukkur was afterwards included in the Soobha of Mooltan, under Akbar.

† I think that this is Nizam-ood-deen, son of Nasir-ood-deen in the Tree.

hear the cattle (*Ar*-bukr) at sunrise." After a time, a change of pronunciation made the word Bukkur.

VIII.—Bukkar is a Deh belonging to Bukkur, the residence of the Syuds, brethren of those of Roree, the first of whom, Syud Meer (No. CXXXI.), was a very distinguished man. His son, Shah Murdan, had a great many children, who became large Zemindars. Among them Meer Ali Sher was noted. His nephew was Syud Lootf Ali, also a Zemindar. There was, besides, a second Syud Meer from among the nephews of Meer Ali Sher, son of Shah Murdan, between which branch and the others, contentions have constantly existed. They are not friendly together, but intermarry, and share family privileges. They are formed into two bands, and have become very numerous. (Written in A. D. 1767.)

The account given of themselves and their forefathers, by the Syuds of Roree, sets forth that their ancestor, Syud Mahomed Makkyee, left the vicinity of Mushed and Herat in Hijree 658 (A. D. 1260),* and turned his steps towards Sind. This statement fully agrees with the documentary evidence produced. A Sunud of the Emperor Shah Jehan (A. H. 1047, A. D. 1637) informs us that Allah-ood-deen Khiljee had bestowed land in Bukkur upon the children of the same Syud. This monarch reigned from Hijree 694 to 716 (A. D. 1294 to 1316). The fact and period of their emigration may be therefore received as substantiated. It is also proved, that in the course of half a century, more or less, the family of the religious immigrant in Sind were established as landholders to some considerable amount. It may be inferred that they had been residing in the country, or under the Delhi dominion, for some years prior to the date of grant.

That Mahomed Makkyee, son of the no less distinguished Syud Mahomed Soojah,† was a man of some repute, whether sacred or secular, may be readily accorded to the venerating zeal of his descendants, who extol him to no small extent in the present era of matter-of-fact inquiry. The term "Makkyee" or of "Mecca" is of itself an imposing affix, and to this he is said to have added "Meer Syud," Chief Syud, and "Syud-ool-Momineen," or Chief of the Faithful. The last somewhat ambitious title would, doubtless, be disputed by orthodox Moslems, for its similarity to that of the Khaliph Omar, whose effectual immortality in the Arabian Nights would readily enlist the sympathies of many generations of a different creed, to preserve his

* Persia ruled by Hulakoo.
Delhi ruled by Nasir-ood-deen.
Sind, &c. { Tatta ruled by the Soomrahs.
Bukkur and Mooltan ruled by Delhi.

† His tomb is now extant at Sukkur, and that of his son, Sudr-ood-deen, at Bukkur.

dignities undivided. To show cause, however, for Oriental modes of address, would be as useless as to attempt to define their value; so, leaving the magnifying purport of the words, it will be satisfactory to find, in the local designation, a clue to the Syud's native land. It would be difficult to name a spot more likely to awaken the veneration of an ordinarily devout Musulman than that here indicated.

But the sweeping invasion of Jenghiz Khan had inflicted a severe blow upon the till then flourishing condition of migratory Mahomedanism; and judging from contemporary history, and movements of the descendants of Hoosain and Husun for the first few centuries after the Prophet's death, it is not unlikely that the location of the Syud, or his family, at Mushed, had been disturbed by the scoffing Tartar conqueror, (A. H. 618 to 624, A. D. 1221 to 1226,) whose ravages at Bokhara must have caused many of the Musulman residents to seek a shelter further south. When the Moguls made stables of the libraries, and trampled the leaves of inspiration under foot, it was time for the student and the expounder to provide themselves with new tenements, and pursue their avocations in a new sphere. Prestige and proselytes must be sought for elsewhere.

Under any circumstances, the ancestor of the Syuds of Roree must have found means to ingratiate himself with the rulers in the land of his adoption. Whether he proceeded direct to Sind, and stopped there; whether he loitered on the way at Kandahar, or elsewhere in Afghanistan; or whether he moved up to the imperial city on arrival, it is hard at this remote period to conjecture; but there were no mean inducements for men of learning in those days to make even Mooltan or Lahore a resting-place in their pilgrimage. The period was, moreover, one highly favourable to the taste for that quaint barbarism in Eastern religion, which has given birth to the saints of the Mahomedan Calendar, including all those pretenders to holiness who have succeeded in obtaining a shrine and a Moojawir to perpetuate their pretensions. Usmain Merwandi, better known as Lal Shahbaz, Shaikh Buha-ood-deen Zukuria, Shaikh Nizam-ood-deen Owlia, Shaikh Shureef Boo Ali Kulundur, Fureed-ood-deen Shukurgunj, and others, appeared on the Indian scene about this particular epoch. The prince Mahomed at Mooltan, son of the civilized Ghuyas-ood-deen, vied with his father at Dehli, in drawing around him the poets and philosophers of the day (Circa A. D. 1271, A. H. 670). Khoosrow was the light of his court. The invitation to Sadi associated the name of that great moralist with those of less note, who lent their lustre to the intellectual banquet. A brief interval of revolution and darkness ensued. The dynasty of the Khilzees was next on the list (A. D. 1288, A. H. 687). They obeyed their summons, and succeeded to the empire. The sovereignty of the Ghours had been expended.

Ferishta has given a vivid description of the Court of Allah-ood-deen. There are certain qualities of this monarch prominently exhibited by the historian, which may be here noted. He was energetic as well as magnificent; he had a comprehensive as well as a selfish mind. His mere acquisition of letters, when surrounded with all the glorious circumstance of empire, seems an incredible effort of enlightened despotism. Attention to the fiscal state of his dominions, and attachment to the society of men of learning, were remarkable amid the many impulses which influenced his career; and the historical brilliancy of his reign is such, that the reader's eye becomes too dazzled to rest upon the foul murder which signalized its commencement. No wonder that the stranger Syud would be welcomed, and his troubles recompensed, at the hands of this powerful potentate. Indeed, a first glance would almost lead one to identify Syud Taj-ood-deen, the son of Syud Kootb-ood-deen, whom Ferishta notes among the holy men of the day at Delhi, with the Syud of the same name, son of Khuteeb Sudr-ood-deen, the second in the Tree of Syuds.

It will be well, before proceeding further, to examine the supposed nature of the grant bestowed under this monarch upon Syud Mahomed of Mecca. The name of this ancestor is mentioned, under the impression that he must have been the original grantee; but were the latter proved to have been his son or grandson, it would matter little. In after years, the grantees were known as the lineal male descendants of the elder Syud, to whom, therefore, it is natural to trace the source of the tenure. In the first place, then, a question on the Jageer grants in vogue at the time may not be without its use. Ferishta refers to these shortly before the reign of Allah-ood-deen.

In the more modern histories of Sind, there is very little notice taken of a twenty-two years' princedom of Nasir-ood-deen Kubachu, who is said to have overthrown the Soomrahs at the beginning of the seventh century. Nor is there any reason given to doubt that this chief, driving his opponents into narrow limits about Tatta, ruled himself at Bukkur, in Upper Sind, eventually occupying also Mooltan. After his death (A. D. 1224-25, A. H. 622), these provinces submitted to Altimsh; and it does not appear that the Soomrah government, whatever its former range, extended at any later period to the north of Tatta, or perhaps Schwistan. The after division in the Ayeene Akburee may be taken as an argument in favour of this view, and Maurice and Elphinstone may be quoted as giving indirect evidence to the same effect, in spite of an occasional passage bearing a contrary tendency. This episode of Sind history is here adverted to, because, as above signified, mention is made of the military service Jageer "near the Indus," in the reign of Kootb-ood-deen (A. D. 1205 to 1210, A. H. 602 to 607), the slave

and successor of Mahomed Ghouree. Nasir-ood-deen was a contemporary and fellow-slave of the former.

This description of grant, the evidently original Jageer of India, is thus of very ancient date. It implied pure service, and entailed the supply of quotas of troops to the royal army whenever required.* We are told by Ferishta, that some who refused to abide by their conditions of tenure were taken prisoners to Delhi, and re-grants of their estates made to their sons; moreover, that by this means the tranquillity and loyalty of Mooltan and the Punjaub were effectually secured. Following the inquiry to a much more recent date, the reign of Akbar, it is impossible to distinguish in the two kinds of Jageer then habitually granted, any meaning but a reward for services performed, the "Sir" being for an establishment, the "Tun" for a single individual. The institutes expressly specify that "Servants employed about the palace, *who have not leisure to attend to the business of a Jageer*, receive their salaries in ready money." Here is good testimony to the intent and nature of the tenure, further strengthened by the omission, in the same work, of any such nomenclature for alms or pensions, when gifts in charity were discussed.

Now a land grant to a Syud or Peer, in his religious character, as a Khyrat, or in the way of alms-giving, must be held a comparatively modern innovation upon the Jageer system of India, as applied to Sind. When such, therefore, were bestowed five and a half centuries ago, it may be assumed that they were saddled with a condition. Let it be said that an injunction to pray for the honour and prosperity of the donor was in itself sufficient to make a grant dependent upon a certain degree of subservience to be exacted; but service of a more palpable and less discretional kind was also requisite, and constituted the essential and primary object of donation. The holy adventurers, who were accustomed to sow the moral seeds of superstition in a fertile soil, and thrive bountifully upon the produce, were to be made to try their *physique* upon waste patches of ground, which could hardly be expected to yield much. They were to become cultivators in the country of their sojourn, and, in return for their exertions, they would receive from Government rents, leases, or assessments on favourable terms, exemptions, and remissions, and be acknowledged *bonâ fide* proprietors of the land. The first three Sunuds in the list are illustrative in this respect. It is to be doubted whether these wandering followers of early Islam were ever so useful to their fellows, and so creditable to their individual callings, as when tilling the ungenial soil of Sind, and actively performing their part of obedience in the great mission of physical labour entailed upon fallen man, without exception of caste or creed.

* Briggs's Ferishta, Vol. I. page 236.

The intelligent and well-informed Syud Zain-oolab-deen, son of Syud Ismael Shah, a confidential employé of the late Sind Government, has suggested that the ancestors of the Roree Syuds, being numbered among the Mooreeds or disciples of the famous Buha-ood-deen Zukuria,* must have obtained the good offices of that saintly personage in securing a footing in the Soobha of Mooltan. The spiritual rule of this Moorsheed partook sufficiently of a substantial worldly character to foreshadow the temporary independence of the province; and it may not be unworthy of remark, that the chief actor in the revolution which wrested Mooltan from the Delhi empire (A. H. 847, A. D. 1443) was the Moojawir of his own particular mosque, the herald of a dynasty of Afghan Lunga Kings.

Syud Sudr-ood-deen, designated Khuteeb, or The Preacher, the only son of Mahomed Makkyee, mentioned by the Syuds among their ancestry, is said to have had a numerous progeny. Of his ten sons, the families of seven are struck out of the registered Tree, as unconnected with the object of the present inquiry. They became scattered in Sind, Ooch, Guzerat, and Hindoostan generally. The other three are retained, being the immediate ancestors in the lines under discussion.

By sanction of the Emperor Allah-ood-deen, the Syuds of Bukkur (Mahomed Makkyee and family) were in possession of Aliwahan. Just 295 years after the death of that monarch, a Sunud of the Emperor Shah Jehan confirms them in the same grant. No names are mentioned; but the grantees are spoken of as being a numerous body. According to the Tree, an average of twenty-eight years must be accorded to each generation, to trace the descent down to present incumbents. This would suppose the eleventh to be intended in the imperial deed. 128 years later, or in the sixteenth generation, Goolam Shah Kulhora renews the grant to the Syuds, specifying with them one Meer Yacoob Khan. Children of Syuds receive the titles Syud and Meer both, according to circumstances, and this person was doubtless one of the family (vide Tree); but the Purwana under the British Government has included the Syuds collectively, without naming any one in particular. It is worth while to consider somewhat minutely the object of a holding of at least 538 years' duration.

There is, unfortunately, no Sunud forthcoming wherewith to lay a foundation for inquiry. The first one available refers, as before stated, to a prior possession of nearly three centuries. This contains no reference to the object of grant, except in the term "Mudud-mash," increase of subsistence, and the enjoining words to pray for the Sirkar. It might be fair to believe it a semi-charitable confirmation of an assign-

* Died 6th Sufur 665 (A. D. 7th September 1266).

ment of valueless and unproductive land; that is to say, of land which *had been* valueless and unproductive, and had not sufficiently improved to call for interference on the part of the ruling power. If Ferishta's account of the Emperor Allah-ood-deen be true, his exaction of a half produce upon all lands, indiscriminately, would be enough to make the residence of a laborious class of agricultural Syuds, in the wastes of Sind, a desideratum for the State coffers; and the imperial opinion, that "religion had no connection with civil government, but was only the amusement of private life," was hardly indicative of a taste for Khyrats.

Shah Jehan's Sunud is a very plain, straightforward kind of document, and confirms the act of his predecessor with the best of grace. But the worldly use of a Syud in those days is clearly evinced by two preceding deeds, encouraging cultivation in Syudpoor.* In these an assessment per beega is fixed agreeably to former Sunuds, and in consideration of the position of grantees. There is no mistaking the meaning here. The race of Zemindar Syuds to be found in the length and breadth of the country is easily explained on reference to these ancient arrangements. The religionists furnished and sowed seed for the season crops, and the Government planted and protected the religionists. While arid plains became fertilized into corn-fields, the houseless devotees grew into substantial proprietors. Then followed the season of extravagance and indolence, progress came to a standstill, and retrogression ensued. To this day the Hindoo Bunnias are pulling to pieces the remains of a bankrupt community, once of much promise as regards agriculture.

The strongest argument in support of the general propositions is, however, to be derived from a later Sunud of the Emperor Shah Alum, otherwise known as Bahadoor Shah (A. D. 1709, A. H. 1131). It is satisfactory to find, on arriving at this document, that the concord between the Genealogical Tree and the Sunuds is sufficiently clear to carry the investigation from the reign of Allah-ood-deen to that now alluded to, without the necessity of a pause to remove doubt or mistrust. A reference to the Tree will show Meer Ruzuvee Bukree, the grantee of Bukkar, in the fourteenth generation; and his immediate descendants are to this day in possession of the whole Tuppa known by that name (No. CXXXI.).

A singular mixture of objects prevails in this grant of Shah Alum. Roads are to be cleared of robbers, waste lands are to be brought under cultivation, and prayers to be offered up for the royal

* Aliwahan is a mile or two above Roree, and Syudpoor some 25 miles to the NE. of the same place.

prosperity and permanence. It is scarcely probable, that at this late stage of possession (after about 400 years), one whole branch of the large family would be located in a tract separate from the rest, under strong and severe conditions, if the others were enjoying a wholly free and independent tenure. It is considered that one must have been in some way analogous to the other, notwithstanding the failure of any specification of conditions. It may be stated, on the other hand, that the Syuds of Bukkar still retain their partnership in Aliwahan. This is believed to be the case, to the extent of having a dormant right; but it is an indisputable fact, that they have now become quite a distinct colony of themselves, and are provided for elsewhere.

To examine the position of the holders of Aliwahan at the present day would be to discover a joint tenure, in which thirty-seven individuals have fixed shares, varying in proportions from 2,356 to 4,000. It is not important to unravel the mystery of this maximum and minimum, as the division is quite a private affair, which it would be impossible to recognise as affecting re-grants. Indeed, were such recognition attempted, it would be necessary to shut out a large number of lawful claimants, who could at any time prove a title to consideration, by lineal descent from the grantees of the fourteenth century.

Under the circumstances, then, if collateral and other evidence cannot be deemed conclusive in making this particular grant essentially a charitable gift (though it will doubtless be so considered by many), the increased number of dependents thereon (for families must be brought into account), and the deep root of occupancy taken ere this, must establish it as one which it would be true charity not to disturb. Moreover, according to the strict letter of the law, there is abundant cause for dealing with it under the first and most favourable class now provided for Jageers. In clearly proved antiquity it has, perhaps, not its parallel in Sind.

Without dwelling upon the individual members of each generation, a course which will be necessitated when the several cases come under adjustment, it will be more to the purpose to follow the career of the settlers under the respective governments acknowledged in Upper Sind. The grantees shown in the accompanying list of Sunuds must, for the general question, be all accepted as the legitimate descendants of Syud Mahomed Makkyee. The origin of Deh Aliwahan has already been discussed; the terms on which Bukkar was accorded have also been mentioned. Other imperial grants in Alore are registered as Inam; one of 995 beegas in Roree savours of charity, inasmuch as the word "Mudud-mash" makes the object "to strengthen or assist the means of subsistence." The various grants and confirmations in

Syudpoor and Mathela seem to imply favourable terms to promote cultivation, and repay the new Zemindars for their exertions in the cause.

The Kulhoras continued the privileges and remissions before enjoyed by the Syuds; but, with the exception of a trifling allotment of 3 beegas by Abdool Nubee, the last of the ruling line, they do not appear to have made any fresh alienations on their behalf. If, as it has been alleged, the dynasty of the Abbasees was favourable to the priesthood, that portion of the craft at Roree and Bukkur did not come in for its fair share of benefits. Upon the whole, it may be doubtful whether bigotry and pretension to sanctity on the Musnud are as likely to assist similar impulses in the village and desert, as would be a mental bias of an opposite tendency. The reflection of imposture must awake sentiments far from pleasurable or gratulatory, and the mirror has more chance of being consigned to obscurity than of occupying a conspicuous place before the owner.

The Talpoors acknowledged the ancient grants to the descendants of Mahomed Makkyee, and readily confirmed them in Aliwahan and Bukkar. Their more recent treatment by Meer Ali Moorad affords grounds for suspicion, however, that the Sunuds were not always strictly respected under this rule. In the face of a written Purwana, confirmatory of past tenure, bearing his own seal, his highness would exact a levy from the Bukarees of a share of produce, if occasion required, or otherwise interfere in their freedom of inheritance. Meer Sohrab Khan altered the Syudpoor law assessments and remissions into a fourth share of revenue, alienated to the grantees. Meers Roostum and Moobaruk made liberal arrangements for such of the Syuds as were found in their respective shares of country.

The principal Syuds of Bukkur are—

No. CLXXXVIII. and No. CCXXXIII. — 1*st*.—Noor Hoosain, uncle, and inheritor of the Pugree of the chief Sirdar, Goolam Shah, deceased.

No. CCXLIII. — 2*nd*.—Syud Sadik Ali Shah, of Kot Sadik Shah, and Ali Wahan, Sirdar.

Nos. CCCXCIII. & CCCCLXXXVII. — 3*rd*.—Syuds Shah Murdan and Ali Askir, recognized Sirdars of the Syuds of Bukkar.

No. CCLI. and No. CCXLVII. — 4*th*.—Syuds Jan Mahomed and Moorad Ali Shah, of Roree.

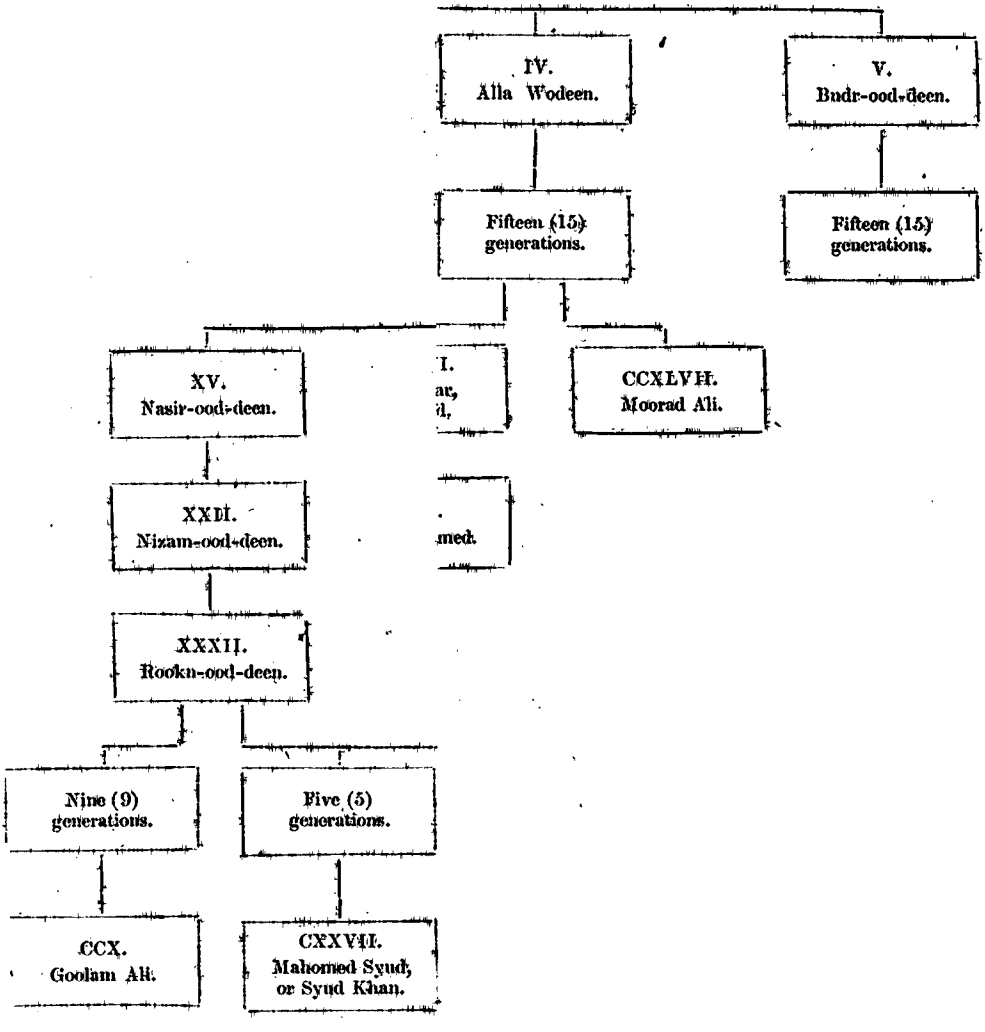
No. CCX. — 5*th*.—Syud Goolam Ali Shah, of Roree, formerly Moorsheed to Meer Roostum Khan.

The first is a quiet, respectable man, somewhat advanced in life; who has but very lately received the turban of chieftainship, owing to the death of his nephew, a young Syud of about nineteen years of age, without issue. The second seems to have been a kind of head personal attendant on the Meers, and holds one Jageer from Meer Ali Moorad,

on purely service tenure. There is nothing remarkable in him individually, to take him from out the ordinary members of his brotherhood; but his descent in the Tree is unmistakeable, and bears testing with the named grantees of ancient Sunuds. The fourth has now succeeded to the position of his late father, Ali Akbar Shah, a Syud of good education, pleasing manners and address. Moorad Ali Shah, brother of the deceased, has also some considerable claims to intellectual superiority, but is labouring under heavy pecuniary embarrassment—a no uncommon complaint among the class to which he belongs. The fifth, Syud Goolam Ali Shah, is a respectable, intelligent man, of prepossessing exterior.

The Bukarees are a singular set, and hardly resemble their relatives of Roree. It should be remembered that Bukkar is a district quite distinct of itself; and must not be confused with Bukkur, in its vicinity. All the Syuds are Bukrees, from their common ancestor, Mahomed Makkyee; but Meer Ruzuvee Bukaree was the head of an independent colony or clan. His descendants are rough, illiterate dwellers in the waste, and their chiefs differ little from the rest of the tribe. Shah Murdan is quite a lad, has a rather African cast of countenance, and, though not without intelligence of expression, he is apparently not in the way to turn his attention to the condition of his inherited Tuppa. Ali Askir is an elderly man, and keeps in the background when in the presence of the younger, and evidently more regarded Sirdar. The whole body are worthy descendants of the grantees in the Sunud of Shah Alum. It may be believed that their ancestors, while fulfilling the behest addressed to their religious character, namely to pray for their imperial masters, were efficient preventives also, and kept a good look-out after the robbers and illicit traffickers who infested the localities in which they had fixed their abode. They may not have lost the qualities of an agricultural police at the present hour, and, doubtless, have not forgotten the original conditions of their tenure.

GENEALOGICAL TREE BY NAME IN THE MEMOIR.



MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

RELATIVE TO THE

TOWN OF SHIKARPOOR;

THE TRADE CARRIED ON BETWEEN THAT TOWN AND KANDAHAR; AND THE SILK TRADE BETWEEN SHIKARPOOR AND KHORASAN.

BY THE LATE

LIEUTENANT T. POSTANS,

15TH REGT. BOMBAY N. I.,

ASSISTANT POLITICAL AGENT IN UPPER SIND.

Submitted to Government in the Years 1840 *and* 1841.

SHIKÁRPOOR.

Shikarpoor may be considered the most important town in the country of Sind, in point of trade, population, and influence. It is situated in Upper Sind, or above Sind proper, at a distance of 24 miles NW. from the Indus at Sukkur, about 40 miles from Larkhana, and 36 miles from the edge of the Desert at Rojlan, which separates Upper Sind from Kutch.

Shikarpoor dates its origin to the year of the Hijree 1026 (A. D. 1617); is an ill-built, dirty town, its walls in a state of dilapidation and decay, the consequence of the total neglect and apathy of the chiefs of these countries to the improvement of their possessions, further shown in the neglect of the Sind Canal, which flows within a mile of the city towards Larkhana, providing means of irrigation to a large tract of country, and a temporary but important water communication from the Indus during a few months of the year.

The houses in Shikarpoor are built of unburnt brick, upper-roomed; and some of those belonging to the wealthier Soucars are of respectable size, and convenient. The streets are narrow, confined, and dirty in the extreme. The great bazar, which is the centre of all the trade and banking transactions for which Shikarpoor is celebrated, extends for a distance of 800 yards, running immediately through the centre of the city. It is, in common with the bazars of all towns in Sind, protected from the oppressive heat by mats stretched from the houses on either side. This, although it imparts an appearance of coolness, occasions, by the stagnation of the air, an insufferably close, and evidently unwholesome atmosphere, evinced in the sickly appearance of those who pass nearly the whole of their time in the shops and counting-houses. This bazar is generally thronged with people, and though there is little display of merchandize, the place has the air of bustle and importance which it merits.

The walls of Shikarpoor, also of unburnt brick, have been allowed to remain so totally without repairs, that they no longer deserve the name of a protection to the city; they enclose a space of 3,800 yards in circumference.

There are eight gates. The suburbs of Shikarpoor are very extensive, and a great proportion of the population, calculated as belonging to the city, reside outside, particularly the Mahomedans and working-classes.

With the exception of one tolerable Musjid, on the southern side, Shikarpoor possesses no building of any importance.

By a Census, taken with considerable care during the preceding month, the following is a return of the inhabitants of this city, including the suburbs:—

Hindoos	19,013 souls.
Males	9,604
Females..	9,409
Houses	3,686
Mahomedans	8,558 souls.
Males	4,467
Females..	4,091
Houses	1,800

In detail thus:—

Hindoos, divided according to shops.

Grain Sellers	64
Confectioners	56
Cotton Sellers	12
Soucars	35
Shroffs	66
Cloth Merchants	65
Goldsmiths	94
Dealers in Drugs	32
„ in Metals	17
„ in Silk	37
„ in Enamel..	19
„ in Perfumes	11
Vegetable and Milk Sellers	46
Dealers in Dry Fruits	97
„ in Salt and Sundries	249
Ivory Turners	3
Total Hindoo Shops..	903*

Mahomedans, divided according to Trade, &c.

Weavers of Coarse Cloth	1,554
Dyers and Washermen	1,248
Oil Pressers	50
Carried over..	2,852

* This is, of course, only a portion of the Hindoo population.

Brought over....	2,852
Weavers of Mats..	30
Tailors	300
Barbers	244
Shoemakers, and Workers in Leather..	305
Ironmongers	290
Embroiderers	95
Lapidaries	164
Potters	103
Cotton Cleaners	121
Butchers	89
Carpenters	246
Preparers of Woollen Numuds..	33
Labourers	467
Musicians, Singers, &c	267
Kosids	83
Gardeners..	47
Syuds and Moollas	433
Cultivators	2,389
Total....	8,558

Independent of the above, there are altogether 1,001 Afghans and Puthans in the city of Shikarpoor, employed principally as cultivators, and a few for police duties by the Government. They are of the following tribes:—1, Populzaye; 2, Peshenee (Syuds); 3, Barukzaye; 4, Moorzaye; 5, Rasakzaye; 6, Mogul; 7, Lukoozaye; 8, Dooravee; 9, Baber; 10, Oosteranee; 11, Momin; 12, Khokur; 13, Ghilzee; 14, Bureech; 15, Burduranee; 16, Firheen; 17, Babee; 18, Dumanee; 19, Owan; 20, Perunee.

It will be seen from the above, that the population of Shikarpoor may be calculated at 28,571 (say 30,000) souls, of whom 9,558 (say 10,000), or one-third, are Mahomedans. In the above are also included many Hindoos, who are employed in distant countries as agents from the Soucars, returning at various periods to their families, who are always left at Shikarpoor.

The Hindoos carry on all the trade, whilst the cultivation, and artizanship of almost every denomination, is in the hands of the Mahomedans.

The dress of the Hindoos of Shikarpoor varies little from that of the same class in other parts of India, except in those who are servants of the Native governments, as deputies or collectors of revenue, and these invariably adopt the beard and Mahomedan costume peculiar to Sind. In their habits of life, and religious observances, the Hindoos of this

city, as indeed throughout the whole of the Mahomedan countries westward of the Indus, indulge in a degree of laxity totally at variance with the strict rules by which they generally profess to be regulated. They possess, however, an unusual degree of influence at Shikarpoor, and are too valuable to the financial resources of the country not to be permitted to maintain it.

With the exception of the Moollas and Syuds, few of the Mahomedans of this city are either wealthy or influential. The Afghan Zemindars, who under that rule held important possessions in the vicinity, and were men of note and consideration, have been gradually stripped of their rights by the Talpoor Chiefs, although in many cases the same were guaranteed to them under promises held to be sacred. In consequence of this, their number has considerably decreased, and those who remain are poor, and, from the connections they have formed in the country, have become naturalized, and are no longer entitled to be considered as foreigners.

The country in the immediate vicinity of Shikarpoor is low, and admits freely of irrigation from the inundations of the river Indus, by means of smaller nullas, leading from the Sind Canal. Cultivation is extensively carried on, and the gardens of Shikarpoor are rich in all the fruits peculiar to the country—the Mango, Neem, Acacia, Peepul, and Mulberry trees attain great size. The soil is a rich alluvial, and its capabilities for production are nowhere better displayed than in the Maghulee district (that in which Shikarpoor is situated), owing to the advantages in this respect (possessed by nearly the whole of Upper Sind) being turned to due account. Still, comparatively speaking, only a limited portion of land is brought under cultivation. Rice and Jowaree form the great Khureef or autumnal, and wheat the Rubee or spring crops. The former are entirely dependent on the inundations, which commence to be available for purposes of cultivation about the middle of April, and continue until the middle of September. The Rubee crops are raised by means of wells and bunds, formed from the inundations. The soil is so rich, that no manure of any kind is used, the inundations bringing with them a certain slimy matter, which appears highly conducive to fertility. The ground is allowed to remain fallow from the reaping of one Khureef crop, in October, until the sowing of another, in April or May; and the same with the Rubee lands. This rule appears to obtain all over the country. Water is found at an average of about 20 feet from the surface, and to a depth of 60 feet the finest description of sand is alone observable, with the alluvial soil as a superstratum; a stone, or rocky formation of any description, is not to be seen.

All the approaches to Shikarpoor are bad, from the country being so

constantly intersected with watercourses, and no measures being taken to provide bridges, or repair the roads, which are cut up by Gharees, and the constant traffic of camels, bullocks, &c. A comparatively trifling outlay would obviate this, as also improve the Sind Canal, which, from having been allowed to choke up at its mouth, and get generally into disrepair, is only navigable from the end of April to the beginning of October,* whereas it is capable of affording an important means of water communication from the Indus to Shikarpoor for at least nine months of the year.

Shikarpoor being in the immediate route for the transmission of merchandize to Khorasan, and countries to the north-west by the Pass of the Bolan, has, with Dhera Ghazee Khan, obtained the title of one of the gates of Khorasan. Its influence is more immediately felt, however, in the banking transactions which, by means of agents, it carries on in every intermediate place above the Bolan Pass from Quetah to Khelat, to Bokhara and Herat, as also in all places of mercantile importance in India. Vexatious transit and other duties on goods pursuing the Shikarpoor route towards Khorasan have tended to turn much of its former trade, especially in European goods, received from its port of Kurrachee, into the channel of communication to the north-west by way of Sonmeeanee, Beila, and Khelat—the more direct, and, at present, by far the less expensive route. Still, I have reason to think, that if our political influence with the chiefs of the countries bordering the Indus will admit of it, a revisal of their imposts,† together with a settlement of Kutchee, and suppression of the marauding system in that province and the Bolan Pass, would revive the trade of Shikarpoor, and induce its merchants, who do not want for energy, to purchase largely of such investments as might be cheaply transmitted by means of the river Indus. With the absence of tolls on merchandize in transit, whether by water or land, they would be sure of making a favourable market, coupled also with the protection offered them through the deserts of Kutchee, which they could only formerly procure at an exorbitant amount of blackmail to every leader of a predatory band.

The various productions of these countries, and their prices in the Shikarpoor market,‡ have attracted the attention of that energetic body the Chamber of Commerce of Bombay; and in the article of indigo alone, there can be little doubt but that the produce of the Khyrpoor, Bhawul-

* The present state of the mouth of this canal is such, that the river must rise at least 10 feet from its ordinary level before it will pass to the bed of the canal.

† See a list of export, import, and transit duties, levied on articles of trade at Shikarpoor, by the author, published in the *Bombay Government Gazette* of the 28th July 1840.

‡ A monthly price current of articles in the Shikarpoor market is now published by authority.

poor, and the Punjaub countries, will form a staple return commodity for merchandize to be transmitted from the above Presidency. Silk (raw), drugs, and dyes, may also be enumerated as well worthy of attention. Shikarpoor receives from Kurrachee bunder, Marwar, Mooltan, Bhawulpoor, Khyrpoor, and Loodiana, European piece goods, raw silk, ivory, cochineal, spices of all sorts, coarse cotton cloths, raw silk (China), kinkobs, silk (manufactured), sugarcandy, cocoanuts, metals, kirame (or groceries), drugs of sorts, indigo, opium, saffron, and dyes of sorts; from Kutchee, Khorasan, and the north-west, raw silk, (Toorkistan) fruits of sorts, madder, turquoises, antimony, medicinal herbs, sulphur, alum, saffron, assafœtida, and gums, cochineal, and horses.

The exports from Shikarpoor are confined to the transmission of goods to Khorasan through the Bolan Pass, and a tolerable trade with Kutchee (Bagh, Gundava, Kotria and Dadur). They consist of indigo (the most important), henna, metals of all kinds, country coarse and fine cloths, European piece goods (chintzes, &c.), Mooltanee coarse cloths, silks (manufactured), groceries and spices, raw cotton, coarse sugar, opium, hemp seed, shields, embroidered horse-cloths, and dry grains. The influence of the British Government, and the protection it has already afforded to trade in these countries, have had their effect at Shikarpoor, evinced in the increasing revenue,* and settlement there of influential traders from Loodiana, Umritsur, Bhawulpoor, and other places.

The revenue of Shikarpoor, derivable from trade, amounted last year to .. ..Rs. 54,736

Other taxes, and revenue for lands belonging to the town. 16,645

Making a Total of .. ..Rs. 71,381

divided between the Khyrpoor and Hyderabad Chiefs, in the proportion of three-sevenths to the former, and four-sevenths to the latter. The lands and villages forming the Shikarpoor Purguna amount to about 6 Talookas, and about 68 villages, of which 4 Talookas and 23 villages only belong to the Hyderabad Government. The revenue of the whole, deducting Jageers, may be about Rs. 2,00,000 annually.

The government of the town is vested in two agents or governors, furnished by the Hyderabad and Khyrpoor Ameers, who have also the duty of the police of the districts, and collection of revenue.

The climate of Shikarpoor is sultry, and the heat excessive from the middle of March until the end of August. There are no periodical rains, though storms are generally looked for at the end of June, or middle of July. If rain falls at that time, it continues only for a space

* The Soucars report that the trade of this place has increased nearly one-third during the current year.

of two or three days, but severe falls occur frequently at the vernal equinox.

The air is remarkably dry and clear. The low situation of this town, coupled with its being surrounded by stagnant pools close to the walls, and a large space of the adjacent country for a considerable period being completely under water, would warrant a supposition that the place was exceedingly unhealthy; yet it is not so, except for a short period from the middle to the end of September, during which the inundations are drying up, and ague in a mild form is prevalent. Exposure to the sun of Sind, whether Upper or Lower, during the hot months, is invariably attended with dangerous effects ; and for a certain period of the year the Natives themselves avoid it as much as possible. The hot winds at Shikarpoor lose much of their intensity, from prevailing generally from the southward, and passing over a considerable expanse of water; they continue, during the months of April, May, and June, to blow till midnight. In the desert north and west of Shikarpoor, the deadly Simoon is often encountered. The winds vary generally between south and north, the former being the more prevalent. The easterly winds obtain for a short period during the autumnal, and the westerly during the vernal equinox. The former often precedes rain. Shikarpoor is exempted from a great source of annoyance experienced at Sukkur, Hyderabad, and all places, on the banks of the river, from the Delta upwards, viz. sandstorms. The cold months may be said to commence in September, and last until the middle of March. Frost and ice are not unusual, and vegetation assumes all the appearance of winter in a northern climate. After a fair experience of nearly two years' residence at Shikarpoor, (the season of 1839 being considered an unhealthy one,) I conceive, that with the precautions considered necessary elsewhere, of good houses and due attention to draining, troops might be cantoned at this place without any greater disadvantages than are to be met with in most of our stations in the interior of India. When it is considered that the officers and men of a force stationed here during the most trying months of 1839, were for nearly the whole period under canvas, or in mud huts (affording even less shelter than a tent), and that the inundations were allowed to reach in all directions within 200 yards of the camp, it is only surprising that the disease and mortality were so inconsiderable: I believe, out of a force of nearly 2,000 men, there were not twelve fatal cases. The mornings at Shikarpoor are invariably cool.

ROUTES FROM SHIKARPOOR TO VARIOUS PLACES WITH WHICH IT CARRIES ON TRADE; WITH THE ESTIMATED DISTANCES.

From Shikarpoor to the NE.

1. To Mooltan, by way of Deh Ahuril, on the river:—

Cross the river to Azeezpoor.
To Meerpoor.
To Subzulkot.
To Khanpoor.
To Ooch.
To Galloo Garrah (opening of the Gharra or Sutledge).
To Soojahbad.
To Mooltan.

Estimated distance 215 kos*; 23 stages for laden camels; occupies from 23 to 26 days.

2. From Mooltan to Lahore, by way of Chechawutnee:—

Cross the river to Bendee Shaikh Moosa.
To Syud Walloo.
To Zambra.
To Munjee Baba Nanakshah.
To Surakpoor.
To Lahore.

Estimated distance from Mooltan to Lahore 140 kos; 15 stages; and occupies, with laden camels, about 18 days.

3. To Umritsur from Lahore, 25 kos, and 2 stages.

4. From Umritsur to Loodiana, 40 kos, and 4 stages.

5. From Shikarpoor to Dhera Ghazee Khan, the route is by way of Rozan, Mithenkot, and Deajel, and occupies about 20 to 23 days; estimated distance 200 kos; 20 stages.

6. Shikarpoor to Jeysulmere, by way of Sukkur and Roree:—

To Oodeen Kot (Oodeen-ka-Killa).
To Dandooluk.
To Gottaroo.
To Chomdree.
To Jeysulmere.

Estimated distance 118 kos; 15 stages, and occupies from 15 to 18 days.

* If these distances are compared with those laid down in the late maps of these countries, it would appear that the kos was calculated generally at about a mile and a half; but the idea of distance by the Natives is generally very vague, and they calculate more on the time occupied in a journey.

7. From Jeysulmere to Palee, by way of Pokrom and Jodhpoor, 120 kos; 16 stages, and occupies 16 to 19 days.

Shikarpoor to the NW., to Dadur.

The high road for Kafilas is by way of Janeedera.

Rojhan (edge of the Desert).
Burshoolee (across Ar).
Kasun-ka-Joke.
Bagh.
Merjassir.
Dadur.

90 kos; 14 stages, occupying from 7 to 10 days.

The routes above the *Bolan Pass to Khelat, Kandahar, Kabool, &c.* are now too well known to require repetition.

From Shikarpoor to the S.

To Kurrachee by way of Larkhana.

Sehwan.
Kurrachee.

Distance 150 kos; 29 stages, occupying from 29 to 33 days. This road is impracticable from April or May until September, as far as Sehwan, and the river is the means of conveying merchandize.

MEMORANDUM ON THE TRADE CARRIED ON BETWEEN THE TOWNS OF SHIKARPOOR AND KANDAHAR.

As it is of importance, in connection with the prospects of trade with the countries bordering on, or accessible by means of the river Indus, to ascertain what return commodities may be looked for from those quarters, their value and quality, as suitable to the European market, I have availed myself of the arrival of the annual Kafilas at Shikarpoor, from Kandahar, to obtain the following information on the various articles composing the investments from the latter place, showing the return trade for English piece goods, metals, groceries, &c. transmitted from the former.

I have ascertained from good authority, that the market at Kandahar for European fabrics, of the usual manufactures suitable to the habits and tastes of the people of these countries, is at present unusually brisk, and the demand far greater than the supply; moreover, that there is every reason to believe, from the increase of security to the merchant, the impulse lately given to Kandahar as a mart for the north-west, and the influx of population,* that this demand will not be likely materially to decline. To the fabrics in demand, profits derived, and other particulars, I will refer hereafter.

The insecure state of the Bolan Pass has this year retarded the arrival of the caravans, and decreased their number. I shall quote the following list of articles received by one:—

1. *Turquoise Earth*, 14 maunds, price from Rs. 4 to Rs. 12 per lb.

This article is an important one in the trade to Shikarpoor from Kandahar, but it is doubtful if it would be adapted to the European market. The mines are situated at Nishapoor, near Meshid, and the Persian Government has of late years placed agents to prevent any large or valuable stones from being exported to Herat, whence they find their way to Shikarpoor *viâ* Kandahar. There is therefore a great scarcity of the large turquoises, which are so much prized. The smaller are sufficiently plentiful to be worn by all classes. The stone is polished from its rough state by means of a circular vertical wheel of baked clay, set in motion by the hand, and moistened; the value of the stone being entirely determined by the depth of its colour, and absence of white flaws.

* Coupled with the reduction of transit duties.

2. *Raw Silk* (Kokanee), ½ maund, price Rs. 9-9-0 per lb.

See memorandum already furnished on this article.

3. *Churus*, from Bokhara, 5 maunds, price Rs. 3 per lb.

An intoxicating drug, prepared from hemp seed (Bhang), and used in these countries for the same purposes as opium elsewhere.

4. *Gum*, from Kandahar, 46 maunds, 3 lbs. per rupee.

This gum appears of the same description as that which is known as Gum Arabic, and is in most extensive use for dyeing, &c.

5. *Silk Manufactured Fabrics*, from Herat, of various kinds, 1,854 pieces, prices not fixed.

None of these would be adapted for the European market, being entirely manufactured to suit Asiatic tastes, and principally used in the wealthier Sindee Harems.

6. *Dried Fruits* of various kinds—kismis, prunes, dried black grapes, walnuts, dried apricots, almonds, and dates—in great quantities; prices no quoted, as not probably adapted for trade.

7. *Tinsel Thread*, for embroidery, 2 maunds, price 1 anna per tola.

8. *Khund Seah*, preparation from the sugar-cane of Julalabad, 1½ maund, 1½ lb. per rupee.

9. *Broken Copper and Brass Vessels*, 4½ maunds, prices—for copper Rs. 1-8-0 per lb., for brass Rs. 1-7-0 per lb.

These are returned to Shikarpoor to be re-manufactured, for which they do not apparently possess the means at Kandahar.

10. *Rodung* (madder ? dye), 40 maunds, price Rs. 8 per maund.

This is an important article in this trade, and brought down in considerable quantities. There are two descriptions, called *Rodung Kukree* (above quoted), and *Rodung Phurreeah*. The latter is cultivated at Kandahar, is of a larger size, and values Rs. 16 per maund, or double that of the other.

11. *Saffron, Bakooee*, ½ maund, price Rs. 15 per lb.

Bakooee—so called from its being produced at Bakwa, to the west of Kandahar.

12. *Safflower*, from Herat, quantity not known; *Koomba Dye*, price Rs. 37 per lb.

About 10 boxes annually, of from 6 to 10 lbs. per box.

13. *Gum Salop*, from Herat, quantity not known, price Rs. 5 per lb.

Small quantities only of this article are brought down, but it is in great request at Shikarpoor.

14. *Sir Khiste*, a species of manna, 2 maunds, price Rs. 5 per lb., from Herat.

Used medicinally, and about 10 maunds imported annually.

15. *Musagh Dye*, from the walnut tree, Kabool, 8 maunds, 1¾ ct. per rupee.

16. *Antimony*, from Beila, in Lus, 15½ maunds, 1¾ ct. per rupee.

An article in great demand, from the constant use made of it by the Natives of these countries. If adapted to the European market, it should find its way to Bombay *viâ* Sonmeeanee and Kurrachee.

17. *Old Paper*, 6½ maunds, 2 lbs. per rupee.

Sent to Shikarpoor to be re-manufactured.

18. *Punneer* (name not known), 20 maunds, 9 lbs. per rupee.

Used medicinally, and produced from some wild shrub in the hills.

19. *Podenah*, dried mint, 6 maunds, price Rs. 5 per maund.

20. *Hingoozeh*, assafœtida, 60 maunds, price Rs. 1-4-0 per lb.

This is an important article of this trade, being produced abundantly in Khorasan, and the hilly country of Beloochistan.

21. *Carraway Seeds*, from Khorasan, quantity not known, 2 lbs. per rupee. About 70 or 80 maunds imported annually.

22. *Nirmah*, a very fine description of cotton, from Herat, about 80 maunds imported annually, price Rs. 1-12-0 per lb. Used in embroidery, and highly prized.

23. *Cochineal*, from Khorasan, quantity not known, price Rs. 9 per lb.

The amount of annual import may be about 8 or 10 maunds, and its price is occasionally from Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 per lb. It is used in dyeing silk, and also brought to Shikarpoor from Bombay.

24. *Bhojgund* (name not known), from Khorasan, price Rs. 14 to Rs. 15 per maund. Annually about 70 maunds. In great request and use, as dye to silks.

25. *Gooljuleel* (name not known), from Khorasan, price Rs. 15 per maund. Annually about 80 maunds; used as a green dye to silks.

The following, though appertaining to Kutchee, are inserted here, as they are products of that country, and imported into the Shikarpoor market :—

26. *Alum*, from the hilly country of Kutchee, annually about 200 maunds, price Rs. 8 per maund.

27. *Khunzul*, colocynth, bitter apple, grows as a perfect weed all over the plains of Kutchee, and is to be purchased at Shikarpoor 7 or 8 per pice.

28. *Saltpetre* can be manufactured in Kutchee and other parts of the country in any quantity required; value at Shikarpoor Rs. 5 per maund.

29. *Sulphur*, produced in the Murree and Bhoogtee hills, where are mines, which deserve attention. About 10 or 12 maunds are brought annually to Shikarpoor, where it is valued at Rs. 4 per maund.

30. *Khar*, a kind of potash, produced by the incineration of the *Lye* (or tamarisk), and other salt shrubs. It is in great use in scouring, dyeing, &c., and worth Rs. 1 per 1½ maund at Shikarpoor. 10,000 or 12,000 maunds are brought in yearly.

The prices of the above articles include all duties, and few of them are exported beyond Khyrpoor, or the Sind territories. About three or four caravans arrive annually, and the profit on this branch of the trade is about 10 per cent.

The trade from Shikarpoor to Kandahar, in British manufactures, consists principally of the articles hereafter enumerated, and the present profits (all expenses paid) are at least 50 per cent. between the two places, notwithstanding the double rate of camel-hire (Rs. 52), consequent upon the demands of our troops. As the present state of the Kandahar market, however, may not be considered a fair criterion, or average of the profits of the trade, I may mention that these are seldom less than from 15 to 20 per cent., the rate of camel-hire being Rs. 20, a camel carrying from 6 to 7 maunds. I learn that complaints have been lately made of the great inferiority of the articles, particularly the want of stability in the colours of the chintzes (printed cottons of all kinds come under this denomination), always in great demand.

In the following list of the fabrics above alluded to, I have also given the names by which they are known in these countries, with samples of such as are not recognised:—

1. *Ulwan Makhootic*, red dyed cotton cloth.
2. Ditto, white.
3. Ditto, *Kesrie*, partly coloured.
4. *Chuhulwal*, long cloth (of apparently very inferior description).
5. *Chintz Pukhtch*, glazed chintz.
6. Ditto *Budul*, printed cottons.
7. *Madrapat*, bleached.
8. Ditto, unbleached.
9. *Abrat*, red and white.
10. Ditto, yellow.
11. Ditto, *Chenay*.
12. *Jamadanee*.
13. *Mulmul* muslin.
14. *Juggernath* muslin.
15. *Mukhmul*, black velvet.
16. *Satun*, bleached (species of sheeting cloth).
17. Ditto, unbleached.
18. *Mahoot*, coloured.
19. *Kinkobs*.

MEMORANDUM ON THE SILK TRADE BETWEEN SHIKARPOOR AND KHORASAN.

The importation of raw silk from the north-west to Shikarpoor is one of the most important branches of the import trade from that direction. The article appears to be of a superior description; and as I am not aware of its being known in the Bombay market, I have collected the following particulars.

The following are the descriptions of the raw silk, with the prices of each in the Shikarpoor bazar, import duty paid (at Rs. 1-6-0 per maund) :—

1. *Kokanee*, from Bokhara (produced in Toorkistan), price Shikarpoor Rupees 10 per Assar.*
2. *Toonee*, from Herat, price Rs. 13-12-0 per Assar.
3. *Shal-bafee*, from Herat, price Rs. 15-10-0 per Assar.
4. *Nuwabee*, from Bokhara, price Rs. 14-12-0 per Assar.
5. *Gheilanee*, from Kirmare and Yezd, price Rs. 9 per Assar.
6. *Kaloochar*, from Herat, price Rs. 9 per Assar.

The value of annual imports may be about Rs. 50,000, and the route is through the great Pass of the Bolan. The traders are principally Afghans, who visit Shikarpoor with the annual Kafilas from October to March (though much of the article is purchased by the Hindoo agents of the Shikarpoor Soucars, who are to be found in all the important cities and marts of the north-west).—*See Sir A. Burnes's Report on the Route of Shikarpoor.*

Nos. 1, 2, 5, & 6 of the raw silks above enumerated are prepared for weaving, and dyed at Shikarpoor; the *Shal-bafee* and *Nuwabee* (Nos. 3 and 4) are manufactured at Roree, on the opposite bank of the Indus, into a coarse silk fabric, known as *Duryaee*, value at Roree 7 annas per Guz. The silk threads prepared at Shikarpoor, and hereafter enumerated, principally find a market at Khyrpoor, Sukkur, Roree, Larkhana, Gundava, Bagh (in Kutchee), and towards Lower Sind as far

* Silk, raw and prepared, is weighed at the rate of 90½ Shikarpoor Rupees to 1 Assar; 90½ Shikarpoor Rupees equal in weight 88¼ new Company's. The present exchange between the two currencies is 94¾ Company's per 100 Shikarpoor, or 5¼ per cent. in favour of the former.

as Sehwan and Tatta, where they are manufactured into Loongees of various descriptions, Goolbuduns, and other fabrics used in the country. The raw material, or prepared thread, does not appear to enter into the export trade of Shikarpoor, with any of the neighbouring countries.

The following is a list of prepared silk threads from the raw *Kokanee* :—

1. *Pistakee*, yellow Gooljuleel (Mellilat) dye, price Rs. 20 per Assar.
2. *Chumunee*, light green mixture of indigo with the above, price Rs. 20 per Assar.
3. *Subz*, dark green ditto ditto, price Rs. 20 per Assar.
4. *Soormaee*, indigo, price Rs. 20 per Assar.
5. *Koombaee*, orange Koomba (safflower dye), price Rs. 28 per Assar.
6. *Jillaee*, deep yellow (not known), Kumbera dye, price Rs. 16 per Assar.
7. *Kirmdz*, cochineal dye, crimson, price Rs. 21-12-0 per Assar.
8. *Acho*, white, undyed, price Rs. 20 per Assar.

List of prepared threads from the raw *Toonee* :—

1. *Pistakee* .. .. } Same dyes used as the above; price Rs. 24 per Assar.
2. *Chumunee* .. .. }
3. *Subz* .. .. }
4. *Ashmanee* (light blue indigo) .. .. }
5. *Acho* (white) .. .. }
6. Three shades of cochineal, price Rs. 26-12-0 per Assar.

The raw silks *Ghielanee* and *Kaloochar* are not in very general use, *Kokanee* and *Toonee* being the principal importations, and the most in use.

The expense of transmitting goods from Shikarpoor to the sea by water carriage may be easily ascertained, as certain rates have been established by the British Government for freight by packet boats—thus, from Sukkur to Kurrachee bunder Co.'s Rs. 1 per maund dead weight, or Rs. 1 per cubic foot for light goods. The expense of transport from Shikarpoor to Sukkur by the Sind Canal is about 4 annas per maund, or 2 annas per camel carrying 6 maunds.

The export town duties to be paid at Shikarpoor, and the export duties again at Kurrachee, on raw silk, would be thus :—

1. All duties on purchasing in the bazar, and clearing the town of Shikarpoor, as far as the Sind Canal, Shikarpoor Rs. 16-14-0 per maund.
2. Export duty at Kurrachee, about Rs. 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

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A calculation from the above may be pretty accurately formed of the price at which the article would come into the Bombay market; and as it will hereafter be to the interests of the Native Governments to modify many of the imposts which may at present be considered vexatious and oppressive upon trade, silk and other commodities from the north-west may, with the advantage of water carriage from Shikarpoor to the Presidency, enter considerably into the market of Bombay by the route of the Indus.

MEMOIR

ON

THE KHYRPOOR STATE,

IN UPPER SIND.

BY

LIEUTENANT LEWIS PELLY,

17TH REGIMENT BOMBAY N. I.,

DEPUTY COLLECTOR IN THE SHIKARPOOR COLLECTORATE.

Submitted to Government in March 1854.

KHYRPOOR STATE.

The State of Khyrpoor was a creation of one branch of the tribe of Beloochees, called Talpoor, who, settling in Sind early in the last century, took military service under its then rulers, whom they subsequently rebelled against, overthrew, and expatriated. Those rulers, under the name Kulhora, had, at the date of their expulsion, reigned during a period of about fifty years, and had reached, to judge from their architectural remains and sites, a degree of civilization and of taste nowhere discernible among the dwellings of their conquerors.

The origin, circumstances, and results of this usurption were briefly these :—Shadad, grandson to a certain Kaka, or Begum, whom all the Talpoor Chiefs claim as their common ancestor, quitted his native mountains for the left bank of the Indus, and colonized, at a distance of 12 miles from the ancient ruins of Brahminabad, the town which still bears his name.

One of Shadad's sons, named Behram, was murdered, either by, or at the order of the Kulhoras; but a second son, Chakur, became a considerable Zemindar in the districts into which his father had emigrated, and it was this latter son who was father to Sohrab, the founder of the Khyrpoor State.

At length, in A. D. 1783, and after many misunderstandings between the rulers and their mercenaries, Futeh Ali, grandson to Behram, in revenge, as it is said, for the murder of his grandfather, and of another Talpoor, excited his clansmen to revolt; and, upon the rebellion proving successful, established himself in Hyderabad as chief ruler in Sind. Sohrab and another chieftain, named Thaira, were, it appears, subordinately associated with him in power, but they shortly left the capital—Sohrab in route to Khyrpoor, and Thaira towards Shahbunder, in Lower Sind.

Tradition varies in its relation of the causes which induced this separation among the usurpers; but I am inclined to believe that it did not partake of the nature of a political rupture and flight, but was rather the result of a family arrangement, similar in many respects to that which Sohrab himself subsequently made for his own sons, and whereby the territory at disposal was apportioned between three chiefs, among whom one was to be considered Rais or turban-holder, with additional

lands attached to that dignity; while every chief was to be considered independent within the limits of his own territory.

Be that, however, as it may, Sohrab, repairing to the town of Khyrpoor, there declared himself Ameer of the adjacent districts, and a tributary of the King of Kabool. From that date, the history of the other Talpoor Ameers becomes, unless in particular instances, foreign to the object of this Report.

I am unable to discover any exact statement of the amount of territory appropriated by Sohrab upon his first establishment in Upper Sind; but whatever that extent may have been, it was too limited for his restless and ambitious spirit. Partly by force of arms, and mainly by intrigue, Sohrab expanded his originally narrow tract, until it reached Subzulkot and Kusmore to the north, the Jeysulmere Desert upon the east, and the borders of Kutch Gundava towards the west. This northern frontier he seems to have wrested from the Bhawulpoor State, and to have introduced himself across the Indus by means of Afghan indifference, or avarice.

This avarice or indifference resulted in the incorporation, by the Khyrpoor Meers, of those districts upon the right bank, commonly known under the name Maghulee, and which comprise the two divisions of Boordeka, or the land of the Boordee Belooch, and Shikarpoor. These include also, as I learn from Captain Goldsmid's private notes upon the subject, Sukkur, Nowshera, and the tracts formerly known as Ropa, Chuck, Magurcha, Mahomedabagh, and Shah Bagla. The island of Bukkur fell to the sword of Sohrab's son, Roostum, but in what year I am unable to ascertain. The estates of Soheeja and Kulwaree, a little below Sukkur, were annexed to Khyrpoor by Roostum's younger brother, Moobaruk. The city of Shikarpoor became, in 1823, joint prize among the Meers of Hyderabad and Khyrpoor, the latter's interest therein being three-sevenths.

Toward the south, the town of Kurachee was wrested by the Talpoors from the Chief of Khelat, and of this conquest the Khyrpoor Government obtained a share. The annexations of Sohrab lying eastward were of trifling value, considered fiscally.

In or about the year 1813, the Ameers, availing themselves of the crisis at Kabool, consequent upon the expulsion of the Suddozaye dynasty, and the establishment of the Barukzayes in Afghanistan, refused to continue the tribute which the Kulhoras and Talpoors had irregularly paid up to that date; and thenceforward Khyrpoor remained practically independent, up to the time when we urged claims in behalf of Shah Soojah, for a balance of tribute due, if not, indeed, for a renewal of tribute demandable.

In 1811, Sohrab, wearied of public life, abdicated the Raisat in favour

of his son Meer Roostum, and retired to the fort of Deejee, formerly called Ahmedabad. During the years which intervened between the date of his abdication and of his death, many documents were issued by the ex-Rais, or at least under his seal and sanction, modifying and re-apportioning his territory. In these documents the name of a son, Ali Moorad, born in 1815 to Sohrab, in retirement, by the wife of his old age, found prominent insertion. By a will, dated 18th May 1829, the country was apportioned among his three sons, in four shares; each having one share as his property, and Meer Roostum, as Rais, holding the other share, in addition to his patrimony, with remainder to his two brothers, Meers Moobaruk and Ali Moorad. The whole revenue of the territory so apportioned may be roughly estimated at Rs. 20,39,000, and the analysis of distribution was as follows:—

MEER ROOSTUM'S SHARE.

Districts.	Nowshera ..... Co.'s Rs.	3,50,000
	Kundiara	1,75,000
	Luddagagun, deducting grants to others	1,50,000
	Roree	30,000
	Ooboura	1,25,000
	Bhoong Bharra	25,000
	Subzulkot (one-third)	25,000
	Boordeka	60,000
	Shikarpoor and lands thereof (three-fourths of three-sevenths)	21,000
	Chuck Magumka	50,000
	Other lands	50,000
	Khyrpoor Dechurka	1,20,000
	The Narra Registan and Bamboorka	3,000
	Registan Forts	6,000
	Share of Kohera	10,000
	Total Meer Roostum's Share .. Co.'s Rs.	12,00,000

MEER MOOBARUK'S SHARE.

Districts.	Gotekee ..... Co.'s Rs.	1,25,000
	Meerpoor, Mathela	1,50,000
	The Immamuvah	20,000
	West Indus lands	10,000
	Shikarpoor (one-fourth of three-sevenths)....	7,000
	Share of Kohera	3,000
	Total Meer Moobaruk's Share .. Co.'s Rs.	3,15,000

MEER ALI MOORAD'S (PATRIMONY) SHARE.

District of Gujree, with the Meerwah.Co.'s Rs.	2,75,000
Share of Luddagagun.....	30,000
West Indus lands	34,000
Aradeen and Narra, with Sherghen	6,000
Share of Kohera, and neighbouring lands	5,000
Total Meer Ali Moorad's Share..	3,50,000
Grand Total....Co.'s Rs.	18,65,000

The above include all the Jageerdars, the greatest number of whom were in Meer Roostum's share.

The last paper bearing Sohrab's seal is reported to have decreed that the turban should descend in the direct, and not in the collateral line. At length, in 1830, Sohrab fell from a window of his palace in Khyrpoor, and survived for a period only long enough to commend his boy Ali Moorad to the care and protection of his elder brother Moobaruk.

The latter failed of obeying this last injunction. He and Roostum seem to have combined to avail themselves of the youth's inexperience to defraud him of part of his rightful inheritance, and thus were sown the seeds of those dissensions destined to contribute toward the common ruin of the brothers and of their country.

Ali Moorad, arrived at maturity, accurately estimated the injustice perpetrated upon him, and he appears to have early determined to lose no opportunity for retaliation. Our interference in the affairs of Sind indicated the approach of such an opportunity.

But before giving prominence to the story of this Ameer's relations with the English, I must solicit permission to trace briefly the growth of our connection with Sind, from the period when we truly announced that our policy was averse from interference beyond the Indus, up to the date when Ali Moorad found, in the establishment of our representative in Upper Sind, a conjunction of affairs suitable to his designs—a growth mainly attributable, doubtless, to the force of accidental circumstances, but in part also traceable to that vague but uncontrollable principle of expansion, inherent in our Indian Empire.

The relations between Sind and the British Government began in 1758, when the latter obtained from Goolam Shah, the Kulhora, permission to establish a factory, and to send an agent to Tatta. These relations were rudely broken off by Surfuraz in 1775. Towards the close of the century, however, the factory was restored; but misunderstandings again ensuing, the English were re-expelled. In 1809, the eastern policy of Napoleon entailed upon England the necessity of securing the

North-west Frontier of India; and accordingly, on the 22nd August of that year, a Treaty was concluded with the Talpoors, providing for eternal friendship between the two powers. In 1820, the depredations of the Khosas, and some infractions of the rights of immigrants, resulted in another Treaty. At length, on April 4th, 1832, the political individuality of Khyrpoor was recognized by us, in a Treaty concluded with that State, providing for the use of the river Indus and the roads of Sind. This last Treaty was consequent upon the report of (then) Lieutenant Burnes, relative to the capabilities of the river, and the advantages to be derived from the countries on and beyond it. On April 22nd of the same year, a Supplemental Treaty with the Ameers of Hyderabad was concluded, in the III. Article whereof it was stipulated that a copy of the instrument itself should, in conformity with previous provision, be forwarded to Meer Roostum of Khyrpoor. On the 23rd December 1834 was issued a Commercial Treaty, relative to tolls and duties. On the 20th April 1838 the then Governor General ratified a Treaty, engaging on his part to use his good offices to adjust differences subsisting between the Ameers of Sind and Runjeet Sing, and providing for the establishment at the court of Hyderabad of a British Resident. By the Tripartite Treaty of 26th June 1838, the contracting powers agreed in the IV. Article to abide, in respect of Shikarpoor, and the territory of Sind lying on the right bank of the Indus, by whatever might be settled as right and proper; and the Ameers were informed of the high importance to them of the measures treated, and of the magnitude of the benefits they would derive from securing undisturbed possession of their territories, by paying Shah Soojah the reduced and reasonable claim upon them for Rs. 20,00,000.

In conformity with the terms of the Treaty of the 20th April 1838, an accredited agent having, in the person of Colonel Pottinger, repaired to Hyderabad, Sir A. Burnes was deputed to Khyrpoor, and then entered into (on the 25th of December following) a Treaty with the then Rais, Meer Roostum, providing in a separate article, and as subsequently explained by Lord Auckland, for the occupation by the British of the fort of Bukkur, " only during actual war, and periods of preparing for war." This Treaty further acknowledged the dependence of Khyrpoor upon the British protection; and as it was made out in the name of the Rais alone, documents were accorded to Meers Moobaruk, Mahomed, and Ali Moorad, engaging, on the part of the East India Company, " never to covet one rea of the revenue" of the shares of Sind in their possession respectively.

Such, then, was the position of affairs when Ali Moorad awaited his opportunity for retaliation upon his brothers, and for saving himself in the probable event of a general wreck of his country. It would not,

however, appear that he found, either in Colonel Pottinger or Sir A. Burnes, an instrument fitted to his designs. For Ali Moorad was cautious in coming forward; and it was not until Mr. Ross Bell's arrival as Political Agent in Upper Sind that he ventured in any degree to develope his policy. That gentleman was oppressed with business; and indulgent to, and trustful, it is said, of Natives brought into immediate communication with him. Report adds, that he was surrounded by officials who did not scruple to secure his signature to documents whose import he had not time to discover, and which, had he known it, he never would have authenticated.

In the summer of 1839, Meer Ali Moorad opened his communications with Mr. Bell, by addressing to him a letter without date. Upon Mr. Bell's replying, the Ameer, after exculpating himself from the charge contained in his correspondent's letter of hostility towards the English, proceeded to confide to him the state of affairs between himself and his brothers; and he went on to solicit that Mr. Bell would either cause his possessions to be restored to him, or else allow him to recover them by force. The Political Agent was directed to maintain friendly correspondence with Ali Moorad, but to postpone any final adjustment of terms.

It appears that Ali Moorad did not inform Mr. Ross Bell, at any early date, of the separate document he had obtained from Sir A. Burnes. His motives for such silence are not clear; but it is upon record, that when the Political Agent did hear of the fact, he considered it sufficiently doubtful, and of sufficient importance, to require a reference to the Supreme Government—a reference which was made accordingly.

In July 1840, Mr. Bell, in obedience to the orders of the Governor General, re-entered upon the subject of the claim of subsidy. Meer Roostum's liability to this demand had been recommended to be cancelled, in consideration of his cession of the island and fort of Bukkur, and of his general amicable disposition. Moobaruk had, on the contrary, been from the first more or less openly hostile to our interests, and he had obtained the separate document, similar to the one willingly accorded to Ali Moorad, only at the urgent intercession of his brother the Rais. It was not probable, therefore, that any claim against him would be waived. The amount demanded was Rs. 7,00,000, and as Moobaruk had died 19th July 1839, at a date when we could not with safety press the claim, he had left the debt as a legacy to his sons, from whom it was now required.

These heirs endeavoured to evade the claim, by producing a document, given under Sir A. Burnes's seal, purporting to promise that the Company would never take tax or tribute from their possessions. This evasion was, however, upon Sir Alexander's explanations,

pronounced groundless, and Mr. Bell was directed to adjust the question at an early date. It does not appear that the subsidy was ever paid in cash.

In 1841, Mr. Ross Bell was succeeded by an officer whose character was one upon which, apparently, Ali Moorad did not consider it expedient to practice, and from that period up to the commencement of the events which led to annexation, the outline of Khyrpoor history, like that of all Sind, was comparatively tranquil. Major Outram, by the force of his personal qualities, so impressed the Ameers with the conviction of his honest policy and friendship, that they remained faithful, or at least unaggressive, during our Afghan disasters; and he thus contrived to stave off, during eighteen months, the approach of that crisis which he dreaded as unjust towards Sind, but which others saw to be inevitable.

It is not to be concealed, nevertheless, that during Major Outram's tenure of office, many infractions of the Commercial Treaty were committed; that intrigues were occasionally carried on to our prejudice; and that when, early in 1842, an amicable negotiation was in progress for the transfer of Shikarpoor to the British, Meer Nuseer Khan of Hyderabad so influenced Meer Roostum of Khyrpoor to hostile feelings towards us, that there was no alternative left but to suspend the negotiation.

Meanwhile, family dissensions continued among the Khyrpoor Ameers, until they finally came to an open rupture, met in arms, and, after a battle so called, signed upon the field a document, dated 15th September 1842, since famous under the name "Nownahur Treaty"; but which, as it will form the subject of a later portion of this Report, need not be further noticed now.

In the very month in which the abovementioned Treaty was signed, Sir Charles Napier arrived in Sind, "invested with full powers, whether military or political." He came to carry into execution Lord Ellenborough's policy of exchanging tribute for territory; of refraining from the acquisition of any territory on or beyond the Indus, which might not be required for the purpose of commanding that river; of granting a great reward to our most faithful ally, the Khan of Bhawulpoor; and of making the Ameers feel that their Treaty with us could not be violated with impunity.

So accredited, the General declared frankly, and with truth, that it was not for him to consider how we came to occupy Sind; and he avowed, in predication of his subsequent method of unravelling the tangled skein of Indus intrigues, a political maxim more frequently acted upon than admitted in the East—that the Meers' plea of not being able to control their aroused Beloochees was sufficient excuse to any other Government to overturn them.

In the autumn of 1842, Sir Charles arrived in Upper Sind; and Ali Moorad at once renewed the requests he had made to Mr. Bell. This gentleman had already reported that he was the most fierce-tempered and courageous among the Talpoors. The General quickly detected in him a vigorous-minded, ambitious, and cunning barbarian. Ali Moorad complained that his brother Roostum, in contempt of the law of Sind, was arranging for the transfer, either during life or after death, of the turban of Upper Sind to his son Hussein, to his (Ali Moorad's) prejudice. The General replied that he would, as bound by Treaty, support the applicant's claim against his nephew, but not against his brother, Meer Roostum. That, rejoined Ali Moorad, is all I want; and from that moment he took his side.

In the meanwhile, Sir Charles proceeded to carry out his instructions regarding the territorial penalty to be inflicted upon the Upper Sind Ameers, by the loss of Subzulkot and Bhoong Bharra in favour of the Khan of Bhawulpoor—instructions rendered the more harsh by a second order of Lord Ellenborough's, written, apparently, under erroneous information, and declaring that all the territory of the Ameers of Khyrpoor, &c. intervening between the dominions of Bhawulpoor and the town and district of Roree, should be ceded by those Ameers; an order in fact mulcting the latter in more than Rs. 6,00,000, rendering the majority of them desperate, and so hastening the crisis of the battle of Meeanee. These measures, combined with the consciousness of being suspected by the General of having written a treasonable letter to Shere Sing in the Punjaub, and aggravated by the harrassments of family discord and treachery, so frightened Meer Roostum, then eighty-five years of age, that, upon the 18th of December following, he sent to the General an offer to come into his camp, and place himself under his personal protection. Sir Charles Napier recommended him rather to seek the protection and advice of his younger brother, Ali Moorad. Meer Roostum did so, and shortly afterwards it was reported that he had resigned the turban of Upper Sind to that brother. On the 27th idem, the General proposed, through the new Rais, to pay his respects to the aged chieftain; but the next morning, it was discovered that he had decamped to the desert, whither many other Meers had already sought refuge, and where they were collecting their followers in their strongholds.

The part which Ali Moorad had played in this imbecile and ruinous policy on the part of poor Roostum is painfully suspected, and probably will never be more than painfully suspected. That an officer of Sir Charles Napier's genius and experience should not see through his cunning barbarism is not for an instant supposable; but he was contented, in his own words, to walk over Roostum's folly, and Ali Moorad's intrigues, going his own way.

From the time when the Turban Treaty was reported to him, the General's course was fixed. That Treaty might be, as asserted subsequently by Roostum, the effect of compulsion, or it might be otherwise: to Sir Charles Napier the intrigues of these people were nothing. Ali Moorad had become Rais; he was able, and if a traitor, yet a steady friend; and the General resolved accordingly, that he would not re-open a question upon which, as he considered, the tranquillity of Upper Sind depended. When, therefore, the Ameers ensconced themselves in the desert fortress of Imamgur, Sir Charles Napier, considering that that stronghold was, in virtue of his Raisat, the legal property of Ali Moorad, marched thither, with that Ameer's consent, and personal co-operation, and destroyed it, on the 13th January 1843.

Toward the close of the same month, the Khyrpoor Ameers failed to meet Major Outram, according to appointment, at their Capital. They had preferred to move with their followers towards Hyderabad, whither the General also shortly afterwards marched, and cut, at Meeanee and at Dubba, the tangled skein of Sind affairs, by placing, with the exception of the possessions of Ali Moorad, the country on both banks of the Indus, from Sukkur to the sea, at the disposal of the British Government.

From that period, the sole Native State in Sind retaining political individuality is Khyrpoor. This territory, as guaranteed to him after the conquest, yielded, according to His Highness Ali Moorad's own statement, a revenue of Rs. 15,00,000, and was inhabited by upwards of 800,000 people.

The manner in which these territories were defined, and settled, will be most clearly shown by quoting Mr. Pringle's Memorandum upon the subject.

That Memorandum sets forth that the principles by which Sir Charles Napier was guided in the occupation of the territory acquired by the conquest were to recognize, as being conformable to the law of the country, and creed of the parties, by which we were bound by Treaty to abide, the assumption of the turban by Meer Ali Moorad, in virtue of the voluntary resignation in his favour of his eldest brother, Meer Roostum, any retraction of which was, by the same law, inadmissible; and the appropriation by Ali Moorad of the lands which had belonged to Meer Roostum, both in right of the turban, and as his personal patrimony under a will of their father Meer Sohrab, in as far as they were in Meer Roostum's rightful possession at the outbreak of the war. Also to recognize Ali Moorad's right to all such lands as were in his own rightful possession at the same period, and to retain all the rest for the British Government, in right of conquest, or of forfeiture imposed on

the Khyrpoor Ameers generally, for breach of engagements previous to the war.

The Memorandum goes on to relate that a draft of a proposed Treaty between Government and Ali Moorad was submitted by Sir Charles Napier, on the 4th of May 1845, and that correspondence at protracted intervals was maintained on the subject up to the 18th January 1847; but that in the mean time a circumstance had come to Sir Charles Napier's knowledge, or rather he obtained corroborative proofs of former suspicions in respect to it, which tended to invalidate the authenticity of one of the documents on which the application of his principles to the forfeited territory north of Roree had been based. This document was a Treaty, purporting to have been executed between Meer Ali Moorad and Meers Roostum and Nuseer Khan (the son of their brother Moobaruk), towards the close of the year 1842. At that time the dissensions of these Ameers had been brought to the issue of arms, and in an action, in which Ali Moorad had the advantage, peace was purchased by the other two, by the cession to him of certain lands enumerated in this Treaty, which was written in a copy of the Koran. It was, however, brought to Sir Charles Napier's knowledge, that a fraud had been committed by Ali Moorad in respect to this document, by endeavouring to substitute in it the word "district" for "village," in the designation of a place in which the village and its surrounding district bore the same name, and interpolating the names of some districts altogether; and that when this attempt was unsuccessful, the leaf itself on which the names were written had been extracted, and the matter which it bore was written afresh, with the desired alterations and additions, on another blank leaf of the same Koran, by the same person by whom the original Treaty had been written; the effect of which was to convey to Ali Moorad districts of considerable value, in place of villages of trifling extent.

Thus, then, in fact, His Highness' territories had not been finally defined and settled, before the question of the validity of his tenure had again to be mooted. In the spring of 1850, a commission, attended by Meer Ali Moorad in person, sat, to pass their opinion upon the accusation against His Highness, of having made interpolations and additions in the Treaty signed at Nownahur by Meers Roostum, Nuseer Khan, and himself, whereby he obtained possession of the Purgunas of Meerpoor, Mathela, and Mehurkee, instead of the villages of Dadloo and Mathela; and of having afterwards substituted a leaf in the Koran, containing these alterations copied fairly, in lieu of one in which they had been originally made.

The verdict of this commission resulted in the issue, on the 21st January 1852, by order of the Most Noble the Governor General of

India, of a Proclamation,* copy of which is given below, declaring that His Highness Ali Moorad Khan's guilt had been proved : that he was therefore degraded from the rank of Rais; and that all his lands and territories, excepting those hereditary possessions only, which were allotted to him by his father, Meer Sohrab Khan, should thenceforth be a portion of the British Empire in India.

The tendency and final issue of our relations with Sind, and, as a consequence, with the Khyrpoor State, have been to establish, under circumstances of more or less difficulty, our firm and undisputed rule in that province. This result could not arrive without involving the exclusion of that confederacy of kings, or rather barons, under the title of Ameers, lorded over the valley of the Indus for a period of about thirty years, as tributaries of Kabool, and for about an equal number of years as independent chieftains; who then lost upon the field of Meeanee,

* PROCLAMATION.

The Government of India had long seen cause to believe that His Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan of Khyrpoor, by acts of forgery and fraud, had deprived the British Government of territory in Sind, to which it was lawfully entitled.

Reluctant to condemn the Ameer unless upon the clearest proof of his personal guilt, the Government of India directed that a full and public inquiry should be made into the charges that had been brought against him.

His Highness attended the inquiry in person, every opportunity was afforded of eliciting the truth, and of establishing His Highness' innocence of the crime of which he had been accused.

His Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan entirely failed to rebut the charge. On clear and complete evidence, he was convicted of having destroyed a leaf of the Koran in which the Treaty of Nownahur was written, and of having substituted for it another leaf of a different tenor, whereby His Highness fraudulently obtained possession of several large districts, instead of villages, of the same name, greatly to the prejudice of the British Government, to which the said districts lawfully belonged, and in gross violation of good faith and honour.

The Government of India sought no pretext to interfere with the possessions of His Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan. It desired that His Highness should continue to rule the territories he held, in peace and security, and it was slow to entertain, and to urge against His Highness, accusations which placed in jeopardy his reputation and authority.

But the Ameer's guilt has been proved. The Government of India will not permit His Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan to escape with impunity, and a great public crime to remain unpunished.

Wherefore, the Government of India has resolved, and hereby declares, that Meer Ali Moorad Khan of Khyrpoor is degraded from the rank of Rais; and that all his lands and territories, excepting those hereditary possessions only, which were allotted to him by his father, Meer Sohrab Khan, shall henceforth be a portion of the British Empire in India.

The inhabitants of those territories are hereby called upon to submit themselves peaceably to the dominion under which they have passed, in full reliance that they will be defended against their enemies, and protected from harm; and that, unmolested in their persons, in their property, and their homes, they will be governed with just and mild authority.

By order of the Most Noble the Governor General of India,

(Signed) H. B. E. FRERE,
Commissioner.

21*st January*, 1852.

and were banished, the kingdom which sixty years before they had in revenge usurped, and who are now represented in the political world solely by that hated and minor member of their dynasty, who, discovering in very early life, and from fraternal treachery, but too valid cause for distrusting humanity, resolved, when opportunity offered, to play, if a traitor's, yet a winning part; who in so doing usurped, as it is suspected, his brother's turban, betrayed his country, and was left amid the common ruin, the Iago of the scene, to find, after many years, fit retribution, in being degraded from that rank which never, perhaps, was rightfully his.

BRIEF NOTES

RELATIVE TO

THE KHYRPOOR STATE,

IN UPPER SIND.

BY

LIEUTENANT LEWIS PELLY,

17TH REGIMENT BOMBAY N. I.,

DEPUTY COLLECTOR IN THE SHIKARPOOR COLLECTORATE.

Submitted to Government on the 22nd May 1854.

Brief Notes by Lieutenant Lewis Pelly, 17*th Regt. Bombay N. I., Deputy Collector in the Shikarpoor Collectorate, containing information on the following points connected with the Khyrpoor State, in Upper Sind.*

I. Name, title, and age of chief.
II. Names and ages of legitimate male issue.
III. Whether tributary or not.
IV. Estimated gross annual revenue.
V. Boundaries of territory.
VI. Nature of soil, and means of irrigation.
VII. Industrial resources.
VIII. Routes, approaches, and means of communication by land and water.
IX. Ali Moorad's residence, &c.
X. Character and disposition of Shah Newaz, Heir Apparent to Ali Moorad.
XI. Climate, and range of thermometer.
XII. Average fall of rain.
XIII. Estimated population.
XIV. Religion, language, tribes, and castes.
XV. Mode in which civil and criminal justice are administered.
XVI. Punishments awarded.
XVII. Educational measures.
XVIII. Progress of vaccination.
XIX. Prevailing diseases.

KHYRPOOR.

Name, Title, and Age of Chief.

I.—His Highness Meer Ali Moorad Khan is the present Chief of the Khyrpoor State. His age (in 1854) is thirty-nine years.

Names and Ages of Legitimate Male Issue.

II.—His Highness has four sons, Meer Shah Newaz, heir apparent to the chieftainship, aged twenty years, and Meer Fyz Mahomed, aged eighteen years. The above two sons are by his first wife.

By a second marriage, His Highness has issue Meer Jehan Mahomed, aged thirteen years, and Meer Khan Mahomed, aged eleven years.

Whether Tributary or not.

III.—His Highness does not pay tribute, and yet is so straitened as to ways and means, that Major Jacob, the Officer deputed to consolidate the Meer's territory, found himself compelled to report, that unless an indulgent view were taken when dealing with him in the final adjustment of territorial Jageer and debt questions, His Highness would be unable to stem the embarrassments of his altered position.

Estimated Gross Annual Revenue.

IV.—The revenue of Meer Ali Moorad's patrimonial possessions has been estimated at Rs. 3,50,000, inclusive of Jageers; but at little more than Rs. 3,00,000, deducting the revenue so alienated. The system obtaining is that which was once prevalent throughout Sind, under the name of Buttai, being a grain payment, of the most clumsy, fraudulent, demoralising, and, so far as the collectors are concerned, of the most unhealthy description. I had intended appending a rough statement of the Government shares upon the various crops thus collected, but the entire system has been so elaborately reported upon by the officers deputed to receive the resumed districts, that any further notice thereof is, I respectfully submit, unnecessary in this place.

Boundaries of Territory.

V.—His Highness' dominions are bounded on the north by our districts known as the Left Bank, and by the Indus; on the west by the Indus; to the south by the district of Kundiara; and they stretch eastward across the Narra and the Desert towards Jeysulmere.

VI.—Like the rest of the Indus valley, Khyrpoor is an alluvial plain.

Nature of Soil, & Means of Irrigation.

A ridge of arenaceous limestone hills, running from Roree, enters His Highness' districts at a point about 20 miles south of that town, and then bends in a westerly direction to the fort of Deejee, which is erected upon some of the off-shoots. These hills are known as the Gharr.

On their river boundary, these territories are of course affected by the laws of diluvion or alluvion, causing, as the case may be, an increment to, or decrement from, the neighbouring States.

Canals are the great channels of irrigation. These are of four classes, according to their sizes. Upon the larger canals, superior lands are watered by means of wells.

The general appearance of the country is sufficiently arid—a vast, sandy plain, spotted with cultivation, and jungly-looking, with Jaoo trees, the Mimosa, and the Babool. The finest lands are, I believe, wasted in Beilas, (hunting-grounds). These are fenced, and among them His Highness and his unwilling subjects waste at once their time and their means.

Industrial Resources.

VII.—Leather and paper are manufactured in these districts. The town of Gumbut produces coloured cottons and wove tartans of very creditable texture and appearance, and the artizans in this fabric are apt in imitating any new pattern afforded to them.

Routes, Approaches, and Means of Communication by Land and Water.

VIII.—A military road, cleared when Sir Charles Napier went to Bhawulpoor, runs north and south, through the territory, at an average distance of about five miles from the river. The bridges over the larger canals are of masonry, and are permanent; those over the smaller channels are temporary, and are repaired annually as the inundation approaches. Supplies and water are abundant. Khyrpoor itself is walled; but its defences, like its streets, look deserted, and falling into ruin.

Ali Moorad's Residence, &c.

IX.—Deejee is the only fort left to His Highness, and that is nearly commanded from the south-east, in which direction its ramparts are, at once, so cramped and exposed, that the best troops could not hold them for a day against artillery.

His Highness, when wearied of the chase, retreats to a bungalow situate in the plain to the north-west of Deejee fort. This building is a modified copy of the old Khyrpoor Residency.

In person Ali Moorad is robust, and, for an Asiatic, on a large scale. He is an excellent sportsman. In manner decisive; and the tone of his voice, when uttering the words "Be-shuk" and "Bilkool," is remarkable, and indicative of his character.

X.—His heir, Meer Shah Newaz, seems a mild youth, not more sensual than Asiatics in his position usually are, and addicted to the imitation of English modes. This Meer understands, as do also his two youngest brothers, a little English. He lacks, evidently, the temper and force of will of his father.

Shah Newaz.

XI.—The climate is, like that common to all Upper Sind, agreeable during four months of the year, but fiercely and deadly hot during the larger number of the remaining eight.

Climate, and Range of Thermometer.

The average range of the thermometer has never been taken.

XII.—The average fall of rain is very slight; but in this valley, duststorms, which, especially during the hot season, are frequent, in some measure make up, by their refreshing influence upon animal life, for the extreme paucity of rain.

Average Fall of Rain.

XIII.—The population of these dominions may be somewhat under 50,000 souls; but this number is yearly diminishing, through emigration, caused by over-assessment.

Estimated Population.

XIV.—The population, Mahomedan and Hindoo, is fairly balanced. The language commonly spoken, and to which the Ameers were, it is said, partial, is Sindee. Owing, however, to our rule in Sind, the majority of all classes have learned to stammer a little bad Hindoostanee, and the higher classes are fond, when addressing a foreign gentleman, of exhibiting their acquaintance with the Persian language, or rather with their barbaric patois of that tongue.

Religion, Language, Tribes, and Castes.

XV.—Civil justice is administered after a patriarchal fashion, at His Highness' head quarters. Criminals are confined by the local authorities, and their cases disposed of either by these functionaries or by higher powers, according as the crimes may be more or less grave in nature. The Meer's maintenance of his Zemindars as local judicial authorities is, perhaps, the one and sole point in which his administration has an advantage over ours.

Mode in which Civil and Criminal Justice are administered.

XVI.—His Highness possesses the power of life and death; imprisonment is not common. Fine is here, as it has been found to have been in all semi-barbaric societies, the one chief punitive measure.

Punishments awarded.

XVII.—These are, it is to be feared, by no means on the increase.

Educational Measures.

XVIII.—With the exception of His Highness' own sons, I have not been able to discover any subjects who have been vaccinated.

Progress of Vaccination.

XIX.—The diseases most prevalent are fevers, whether remittent or intermittent, ophthalmia, and various cutaneous diseases. Organic affections of the liver are, it is said, of very rare occurrence.

Prevailing Diseases.

The consolidations by exchange of outlying pieces of British and Khyrpoor territory, reported upon by Major LeGrand Jacob, as above noticed, were not finally settled upon that Report. On the contrary, the Commissioner in Sind considered, that while that Report formed a valuable basis for such settlement, it was not so complete as to enable him finally to determine the future permanent boundary of His Highness' possessions.

That boundary, which has only very recently been finally determined, includes, as territory belonging to Meer Ali Moorad, the following lands and districts :—

1*st*.—The district of Luddagagun, with the exception of the arrondissement of Rorec, and Meer Mahomed's and Meer Moobaruk's Jageers.

2*nd*.—The district of Gajree, with the exception of Soobha Dhera, being the Jageer of Jam Nunda, son of Meer Khooda Bux.

3*rd*.—The Tuppas Aradeen and Narra.

REPORT ON THE STATES AND TRIBES

CONNECTED WITH THE

FRONTIER OF UPPER SIND.

BY

MAJOR JOHN JACOB, C.B.,

BOMBAY ARTILLERY;

HONORARY AIDE-DE-CAMP TO THE MOST NOBLE THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA; AND POLITICAL SUPERINTENDENT AND COMMANDANT ON THE FRONTIER OF UPPER SIND.

Submitted to Government on the 2nd November 1854.

KEYTRANEES
MURREES
BOOGTEES
KELAT
TERRITORY
BRAHOOEES
MUGZEES
CHANDEA
PUNJAB
BRITISH TERRITORY
RIVER INDUS
SKETCH
showing
LOCALITIES of TRIBES
on the
FRONTIER OF UPPER SIND

The Doombkees also formerly
places in its neighbourhood, fr
possessors, the Khyheerees, who,
country, and fled into Sind.

The Doombkees are said to come
derived their name from the river D
are a most hardy, brave, and warlike
racter and manners the Bedouin A
and they are all horsemen.

The Chief of the tribe, Belooch Kh
and indolent temperament, never joined
exploits of his clan, but, with a small
ease and quiet at Lharee.

His kinsman Beejar Khan, who resid
and the adjacent country, was of an ent
though Belooch Khan was still respected
Khan commanded the whole warlike pow
of the Jekranees, who associated with the

The Chief of the Jekranee tribe is
quite distinct from the Doombkees; bu
Beejar, united in war, and in all their
the British Government, they will be d
tribes could, in 1839, muster under Beeja
well armed, and tolerably mounted, wi
bodied armed men on foot.

The British Government has been more c
tribes than with any others su t to Khela
proceedings with these men, it m be well to
tion with the Khelat State genera

The first intercourse between British
Khelat took place early in the year 838, whe
detached to Khelat to make arrangements re
the army about to proceed to Afghanistan.

Mehrab Khan, then Khan of Khelat, was
was led by one Moolla Mahomed Hussan,
determined character, who, by means of
treacherous murder, had raised himself
This man aspired, as will be seen he
in his own person, and had probably
intriguing for that purpose.

This Mahomed Hussan contrived that mu
of offence should arise between Mehrab
and the latter soon left Khelat in an

FRONTIER OF UPPER SIND.

The States and Tribes, connected with the Frontier of Upper Sind, are—

The Principalities of Bhawulpoor and Khelat.

The Tribes of Khetranees, Murrees, Bhoogtees, Lasharees, Goor-
Muzarees, Boordees, Doombkees, Jekranees, Brahoees, Mug-
ndias, Jettoees, Jumalees, Khosas, Oomranees, Khyheerees, the
d Barozhees of Seebee, and others.

Bhawulpoor State it is not necessary in this Report to remark.

rs may be naturally arranged under three heads—

he Tribes residing beyond British territory, and *de facto* inde-
any other State.

e State of Khelat, with the individual border tribes, its subjects.

he Border Tribes, British subjects, living within the British

INDEPENDENT TRIBES.

e 1*st* head are comprised the Khetra
es, the Kujjuks and B
the Bhoogt

To the north of the Khetranees are the Afghans, to the west the Murrees, and on the east the Lasharee and Goorchanee tribes.

The climate is considered good, being moderately hot and cold. In the spring and autumn, a considerable quantity of rain falls, which insures an ample supply of water for cultivation. Several streams run through the Khetranee district: the chief one is the Lar, which rises not far from Barkhan, and, flowing westward, joins the Narra, in the Murree Hills, north of Seebee.

The country is for the most part barren mountain, but there are numerous valleys, which are fertile, and well cultivated. These produce abundance of wheat, barley, maize, and various kinds of pulse; also good fruit, particularly pomegranates, which are in high repute.

Some alum is found in these hills, but no other minerals of cial value are produced. The commerce is trifling: some is carried on with the Afghans to the north, and with the Hurrund Dajeb.

A road from Ghuznee to the Dherajat passes through the but the passes are difficult for camels, and the route is little f

There is little or no intercourse between the Khetranees and they have never attempted any act of hostility on the Br tier but once, when, under the influence of Mooltan gold, M the Murrees and Bhoogtees in an attack on Kusmor

and Goorchanees.

strip of hi

bout 25 miles in diameter. It is bounded on the north and east by he Murree Hills, on the south by the Desert of Kutchee, and on the west by the Narra river, which there enters the plain.

The water of the Narra river, at its highest, flows in various channels, through the whole length of Kutchee, and even into Sind, where it, metimes in a strong stream, joins the Indus water in the canals near yree Ghuree; but, in the ordinary low state of the stream, the Narra ightly dammed near Gooloo-ke-Shehur, and the whole of its water drawn off by various canals to irrigate the fields of the Seebee trict. The soil is very fertile, and produces large crops of excellent eat. The supply of water being permanent and continuous, the haracter of this little piece of country is quite different from that of he neighbouring province of Kutchee, of which it is not considered to form a part.

The climate seems healthy, and, in the spring, is delightful; the winter is cold, but during the season from April to October inclusive, the heat is most intense.

In comparison with the neighbouring districts, much rain falls in Seebee. There is, however, no regular season for rain, but the heaviest falls appear to occur in the months of March and April.

The district of Seebee belongs to Kandahar, and pays revenue to the hiefs of that place.

he chief town of the district was Seebee, formerly a fine, well built, ishing, and populous place. Adjoining the town is a large and antial fortress, which is still a place of great strength, even in its nt decayed condition. Both fortress and town are now wholly rted, having been plundered and burnt by the notorious Hajee Kakur in 1828, *when he was Governor of the Province* on behalf e Kandahar Chiefs.

he fortress was repaired and garrisoned by British troops in 1841-42; with this exception, the place has never been re-occupied, and is a deserted ruin. No officers of the Kandahar Chiefs now perma- y reside in the Seebee district, but a Sirdar, with a detachment of s, is sent generally every year to receive the revenue, which is lly willingly paid, without any demur. After the destruction of own of Seebee, Kujjuk remained the chief town of the district, the Kujjuks were always at feud with the [redacted]hees. their hbours.

r first connection with the people of Seebee co[redacted] 1839, Misree Khan Barozhee of Koork was, wi[redacted]hor[redacted] into our service

from the Kujjuks and other tribes of Seebee, on account of Shah Soojah. The officer was accompanied by a detachment of British troops of all arms; but the business was mismanaged, and much mischief thereby was produced. The Kujjuks had at first not the least intention of resisting; everything remained as usual in their town, and the sepoys of the British detachment were freely admitted into the place, going to and fro, and making purchases in the bazar of the town, &c.

On the second day, however, after the arrival of the British force, the Kujjuks were excited to resistance, chiefly by the insults of Mis[illegible] Khan Barozhee. They refused to pay the tribute demanded, and the town was attacked by the British troops. There were no gates to the town, and the place was otherwise not well adapted for defence, but owing to strange misconduct, and to the accident of the commanding officer being killed, the troops were unsuccessful.

On the next day, the 21st March 1841, large reinforcements arrived with General Brooks, but the town had been completely deserted by the Kujjuks during the previous night.

The place was taken possession of, plundered, burnt, and destroyed; the walls of the buildings being levelled with the ground by order of General Brooks.

But these proceedings were disapproved of by the Government of India, and the Kujjuks were next year reinstated, and their town rebuilt.

From November 1841 to September 1842 an Assistant Poli[illegible] Agent resided at Seebee. When the British troops were withd[illegible] from Afghanistan, and finally evacuated Kutchee in 1842, the dis[illegible] of Seebee was given over by the British authorities to the Kh[illegible] Khelat; but the latter did not take possession, and has not since openly asserted any right to the territory. The people thenceforth paid allegiance to the Sirdars of Kandahar.

They have never plundered in Sind or Kutchee, and have mainta[illegible] respectful and friendly intercourse with the British, whose subjects would gladly be.

Bhoogtees.

The Bhoogt[illegible]s are still a numerous, and were up to 1847 a po[illegible] ful, Belooch[illegible]be. They inhabit the hill country south of the tranees. [illegible] principal town is Deyra. The present Chief of the is Islan[illegible]

The [illegible]h reduced of late years, amount now to [illegible] chiefly rugged, barr[illegible]

carried on systematically on a large scale. Every man of the tribe was a robber. The Khan of Khelat claimed sovereignty over them, but they paid revenue to no one, and, protected by their rocky fastnesses, maintained a stormy independence, usually at war with the Murrees, and perpetually plundering their neighbours.

The connection of the Bhoogtees with the British commenced in 1839. The predatory tribes of Kutchee had caused such loss to British convoys, and rendered communication with the British army in Afghanistan so dangerous and difficult, that, after all other means had been tried, and had failed, a force was, in the month of October 1839, sent under command of Major Billamore, to reduce the robber tribes by force. On the arrival of the force at Poolajee, it was found that the Kutchee plunderers had deserted the country, abandoned their homes in the plain, and taken refuge in the Bhoogtee Hills.

Thither they were followed by Major Billamore's detachment; it being thought important to show the mountaineers, both Murrees and Bhoogtees, that they were not only not able to protect our enemies, but not even themselves safe from our arms.

e British force approached Deyra, the Bhoogtees at first seemed d to be submissive and friendly; but the smallness of the British mpted them to hostilities, and they attacked Major Billamore eir whole strength.

Bhoogtees were twice signally defeated, with great loss: their f, Beebruck, was captured, and sent prisoner to Sind; their town of ra was taken and plundered, and great loss inflicted on the tribe erally. Major Billamore's force remained in the hills three months, then, having accomplished every object intended by the expedi- returned to the plains by the now famous and difficult Passes uffoosk and Surtoff. The proceedings regarding the other tribes be mentioned in the proper place.

e plundering excursions of the Bhoogtees were checked, and they little more annoyance to their neighbours till 1845, when the val of their rivals, the Doombkees and Jekranees, from the plains tchee, after the hill campaign of Sir C. Napier, laid open the -defended frontier of Sind to their incursions.

nuary 1845, General Sir C. J. Napier, G.C.B., Governor of oceeded with a British army of 7,000 men of all arms, and nied by Meer Ali Moorad with an army of Beloochees, d reduce the plundering tribes of Kutchee [illegible] nce of Beejar Khan Doombk[illegible] ear 1843, co[illegible]

Beejar Khan, with the plundering tribes of the plains of Kutchee, the Doombkees, Jekranees, and others, again, as in 1839, took refuge in the hills, and joined with the Bhoogtees. Sir C. Napier pursued them with strong forces. But his commissariat arrangements totally failed; he had made little progress, when the hot season approached, which would have compelled him to withdraw; and had not the Murrees aided him, by refusing to allow either the Bhoogtees, or the fugitives from Kutchee, to enter their country, the enemy must have escaped uninjured. The negociations with the Murrees on this occasion were entrusted to Captain Jacob, and he had great difficulty in persuading them to assist Sir C. Napier. At last, however, he succeeded, but only just in time.

As it was, the Bhoogtees effected a safe retreat, and Islam Khan, with his tribe, took refuge with the Khetranees, until Sir C. Napier had retired to Sind, when the Bhoogtees returned to their own country. The predatory tribes of the plains of Kutchee, the Doombkees and Jekranees, having been removed to the British territory, the frontier of Sind became fairly open to the incursions of the mountaineers. The Bh[illegible] accordingly commenced a series of inroads of more or less imp[illegible] until, growing more and more bold from impunity, they, in D[illegible] 1846, assembled their whole force for one grand incursion, [illegible] through the line of British posts to within 15 miles of Shikarpoor[illegible] dered the whole country at their leisure, and returned with a[illegible] booty, amounting to some 15,000 head of cattle, in perfect safe[illegible] Deyra, in spite not only of the outposts, but of a cavalry regiment from Shikarpoor to repel the inroad, but which found the marauders strong to be attacked.

On this affair being reported to the Governor of Sind, he immedi[illegible] ordered the Sind Irregular Horse, then at Hyderabad, to the fro[illegible] They arrived in January 1847, and their commander at once [illegible] menced to remedy the existing disorders. His measures, found[illegible] principles exactly contrary to those previously acted on, proved suc[illegible] ful. No man not a soldier or policeman in the service of the Stat[illegible] permitted to bear arms, and no private war on any pretence was all[illegible] All defensive works, forts, &c. for the protection of the troop[illegible] abandoned; the troops took the initiative, and acted always [illegible] offensive against the robbers. The strength of the latter had be[illegible] [illegible]or which they inspired: it was now destroyed; the soldi[illegible] [illegible] protected; no violence or plundering [illegible] [illegible] pretence of retaliation, &c. [illegible] [illegible] completely [illegible]

robbers, who had,
ain traitors of influence in the

ostained from outrages on the British border,
Khyheerees in Kutchee, who were under our
pursuits were therefore unchecked by the
whose range they took care never to come.
ning bold by long impunity, and instigated by the
promises of Dewan Moolraj of Mooltan, the Murrees in
empted predatory incursions into the British territory of Sind,
April that year, one of their principal chiefs, Gool Gawur, with
h of the tribe, formed part of a band of marauders, who made
s attack on the British post of Kusmore. This attack was
with terrible loss to the assailants, and the Murrees never
empted an inroad into the British territory of Sind in force.
ttempts were made on various occasions by small parties of the
carry off camels from Boordeka, and in some instances the
orsemen, following the robbers far into their hills, sustained
m considerable loss, though the robbers never were successful.
all hostile attempts on the Sind border have ceased, but the
lunderers still infest the district of the Punjaub between Mi-
nd Rojan.
have also repeatedly plundered the Khyheerees of Poolajee and
ghbourhood, as well as the Bhoogtees at Soree, Kooshtuk,
c.

STATE OF KHELAT.

the exception of the tracts occupied by the people above de-
the whole country adjoining the British dominions on the north
st of Sind is really, as well as nominally, subject to the Chief
t.
ominions of this prince extend from Quetah in the north, to the
he coast of Mukran, a distance of near 400 miles, and from the
of Persia beyond Kharan and Punjgoor on the west, to the
ry of British Sind on the east, a distance also of about 400

he greater part of this extensive tract, comprising the whole
is barren hill, or sandy desert waste.
every variety of climate, and when the plains
in the month of May, by reason of the
nous winds, the country about Quetah
of an English spring.
ly free from moisture : there are

no periodical rain[illegible]
being about two inches a y[illegible]
certain to follow, from which scarcely [illegible]

The well known Bolan Pass is the chief [illegible]
with the lower country: by this route from Da[illegible]
75 miles; while the difference between the [illegible]
animals of the two provinces, is as great as if [illegible]
sides of the earth.

In the upper, or hill country, there are several very [illegible]
of which Mustoong and Shawul (or Quetah) are the chief
favoured spots are, however, rare, and not extensive. The cu
country of Mustoong is about equal in surface to a circle of 15
diameter, while Shawul is much smaller.

These valleys are watered by beautiful clear streams from t
around, and produce abundance of wheat, barley, various
pulse, as also excellent fruits, such as apples, pears, grap
apricots, &c. &c.

The hills abound with wild sheep, and goats of several spe
flesh of which is most excellent venison. The wealth of the
chiefly consists in sheep, which are very numerous all over Belo

Their wool has of late years become a most valuable article
it is, indeed, the only staple production; and as the communic
the country, and the intelligence of the people improve, the sup
be indefinitely increased.

That part of the Khelat territory more immediately connect
British Sind is Kutchee.

This province is the plain country, extending from the town o
at the mouth of the Bolan Pass, in the north, to near Khyree
in British Sind, in the south, a distance of 100 miles; and from
of the western hills to the frontier of the Punjaub districts, a dis
about 150 miles eastward.

The district of Hurrund Dajeb, now in the Punjaub, was form
most eastern possession of the Khan of Khelat; but it was, a
year 1830, occupied by Runjeet Sing, not restored by him to
and is now British territory. Between Kutchee and Sind is a
averaging about 20 miles in breadth.

Wherever water can be obtained, the whole of this area of K
capable of rich cultivation. It is watered by the stream
the Narra, the Lharee, and the Teywaugh; th
important.

But the produce of the country is
rain. Occasionally little or no rai
then the greater part of the count

The wealth of the people consists in cattle, and they sell many s to the people of Sind, purchasing cloth and grain in return. Ther little or no other trade; but formerly, in quiet times, a road from Moolt to Lharee, through this tract of country, was much frequented b merchants.

For many years past the Bhoogtees have paid no revenue to any one An unsuccessful attempt at collection of revenue at Deyra was mad by Mr. Bell in 1840. The chiefs of the tribe acknowledge the Khan o Khelat as their feudal superior, but have, since the time of the ol Nuseer Khan of Khelat, maintained a wild and stormy independence.

Murrees.

The Murrees are by far the most powerful of the independent tribe above enumerated. A great many families of the same Murree stoc long ago settled in Sind. Many thousand souls of this race are no residing in Lower Sind, in the districts near Sukkerund, and i the Khyrpoor territory. But these Sind Murrees have had no connexion or even communication, with the Murrees of the hills, for several gene rations. We are now concerned with the latter people only.

Their country extends from the neighbourhood of the Bolan Pass, o the west, to the Bhoogtee and Khetranee territory on the east, about 10 miles, and from Surtoff on the south to the Afghan territory on the north a distance of about 80 miles. This tract is for the most part barren hill but it contains many extensive valleys, and fertile spots: through i runs the Narra river, a considerable stream, which, rising far northwar in the Afghan territory, enters the plain at Seebee, waters that fertil district, and thence flows through the whole province of Kutchee; it waters occasionally reaching Sind, and joining with those of the Indu at Khyree Ghuree.

A large tributary of the Narra, called the Lar, also runs through the Murree country, from Barkhan through Tull Chateally.

The Lharee river is another considerable stream, which traverses this track; and there are some other permanent streams of less note.

The chief town of the Murrees is Kahun. This consists of about 500 good houses, built of sun-burnt bricks and mud. The town is an irregular pentagon, about 1,000 yards in circumference, and is surrounded by a good mud wall, about 25 feet in height, flanked with round towers. It has one gate on the western face.

The valley in which the town of Kahun stands is about twelve miles in length, and three in extreme breadth.

The hills on the south side of the valley are distant about one mile from the town.

Here is the Pass of Nuffoosk, which commences about a mile and a

pectable, and has now become a subject of shame, instead of glory, to wild borderers themselves.

Peace, quiet, and safety for life and property, were thus established along the border; while the Bhoogtees, who, now shut out from Sind, persisted in making predatory inroads on the plains of Kutchee, were, on the 1st October 1847, in one of these incursions, intercepted by a detachment of the Sind Irregular Horse, under Lieutenant Merewether, and signally punished. On this occasion about one-half of the whole of the fighting men of the tribe were killed, or taken prisoners. The strength of the tribe was completely broken, and the Bhoogtee Chiefs soon came in to the British authorities in Sind, and surrendered at discretion.

They, with the greater part of their followers, men, women, and children, to the number of some 2,000, were settled on lands near Larkhana. The prisoners were released, and some of the men taken into the British service as police; and all might have remained in peace and comfort at their new settlement, had it not been for the intrigues of one Alif Khan, a distinguished Puthan officer, then Native Adjutant of the Sind Police.

Frightened by continual threats and demands of bribes by the police officer Alif Khan, the Bhoogtee Chiefs, in March 1848, fled, and again returned to their hills. On this occasion, one of the wives of the Chief Islam Khan, the families of some others of the principal men of the Bhoogtees, and altogether some 700 or 800 persons of the tribe, remained in Sind.

The chiefs who had fled to the hills made several attempts to renew their predatory inroads, but without success, and after a while they again came to the Political Superintendent on the frontier, to beg for mercy and favour. The tribe being completely broken, and incapable of further mischief, that portion of it settled in Sind was allowed to return to the hills, and they did so in October 1851. Some of the best of the men belonging to it were afterwards taken into the British service, and the Kulpur Chief, Alim Khan, with thirty of his followers, are now enrolled in the Belooch Mounted Guides, employed on the Sind frontier, in which capacity they have proved faithful, diligent, and generally very useful.

The country of the Bhoogtees is generally barren hill; but it contains some fertile spots, such as the valleys of Murrow and Deyra, and the plain of Mutt, which are cultivated, and produce good crops of wheat and jowaree.

There are several permanent streams of good water flowing through their country, and there is good and abundant pasturage for sheep and cattle.

from Kahun, winds over and among very difficult mountain r[illegible] four and a half miles, and leads to the table-land above Surto[illegible] other steep mountain, but not a defile, the path over it being on th[illegible] road, open face of the hills.

The road by Surtoff and Nuffoosk is the best from Kutchee into the valley of Kahun from the south. There is another road, along the Lharee river, but it is much longer, and is also very difficult.

The road over Nuffoosk was a mere footpath, and was little frequented, until Major Billamore's expedition into these hills in 1839-40, when a road practicable for artillery was, with immense labour, cut out of the hill by Captain Jacob.

There is little or no traffic in or through the Murree Hills. The tribe is rich in cattle of all kinds, and has now many horses.

The habits of the Murrees are altogether predatory: they plunder their neighbours on all sides.

They infest the Bolan, and attempt to rob the Kafilas passing. They are continually making predatory inroads on the more wealthy and peaceable tribes of Afghans around them, especially the Khetranees, and are generally fighting with the Bhoogtees and Kujjuks.

After the year 1845, when the removal of the warlike Doombkees and Jekranees from Kutchee left the southern plains open to their incursions, the Murrees plundered and laid waste the whole province of Kutchee, making use on these occasions of large bodies of horse, of which, until they captured Major Clibborn's horses at Nuffoosk, they had none belonging to them.

They frequently also plunder in the Punjaub districts, south of Mithenkot.

The strength of the tribe may be about 3,000 fighting men.

The Murrees first came in contact with the British on the same occasion as did the Bhoogtees, as mentioned above.

When Major Billamore's force was in their hills, the Murrees wholly deserted Kahun, and retired, with all their families and property, to the northern part of their country.

They once assembled in full force to oppose us, but, being outmanœuvred, changed their minds, and did not then venture to engage in a struggle with the British troops. They offered some slight opposition to the work of cutting the road over Nuffoosk, but did not seriously obstruct the troops in marching through their country.

The British force left the hills in February 1840, and in the month of April the same year a detachment was sent under command of the late Major Lewis Brown, permanently to occupy the town of Kahun. The proceedings of this detachment will be described hereafter.

Major Brown quitted the Murree Hills on the 1st October 1840. From

me there was little communication between the British and Murree tribe until 1845.

In January 1845, Sir C. Napier, then Governor of Sind, proceeded as mentioned above, to reduce the plundering tribes of Kutchee to obedience.

But the commissariat and other arrangements proved defective; and, had the hill country to the northward been open to the retreat of the enemy, the British forces could have effected nothing against them.

Wherefore, it was of the highest importance, and, indeed, under the circumstances it was absolutely necessary to success, to secure the co-operation of the Murrees; accordingly, at the commencement of operations, Sir C. Napier instructed Captain Jacob to do all in his power to secure this co-operation, which, after experiencing great difficulty, he effected.

The Murrees were greatly alarmed at Sir C. Napier's proceedings, and removed all their families and property from Kahun into the hills northward; while the whole fighting strength of the tribe assembled in arms at Kahun and its neighbourhood.

However, their chiefs were at last persuaded to wait on Captain Jacob at Lharee, and, having explained the wishes of the General to them, he persuaded them at last to visit Sir C. Napier at Deyra, and co-operate with him against the Doombkees, Jekranees, &c. &c.

This they did effectually, and the Beloochees of Kutchee, who had taken refuge in the hills, thus having their further retreat cut off, were compelled to surrender, and were removed by Sir C. Napier to Sind.

The Murrees were treated with favour by Sir C. Napier, who made them handsome presents. The General also commenced negociating with them for the surrender of the three guns abandoned by Major Clibborn, which they had in their possession at Kahun.

The discussion took place in presence of Captain Jacob. The Murree Chiefs promised, at Sir C. Napier's request, to give up one of these guns, and to send it to Poolajee; but knowing the bad effect of such proceedings on the minds of these barbarians, and that they had neither the intention of giving up the gun, nor the power of transporting it to the plains, Captain Jacob expressed a strong opinion as to the impolicy of negociation, and told Sir C. Napier that the Murrees thought we were afraid of them. On this, His Excellency abruptly broke off the negociation, and the matter was never again agitated.

After this, the Murrees remained nominally in alliance with the British; but the field being opened to them by the removal of the Doombkees and Jekranees, and the tribe having by this time acquired many horses, they plundered all over Kutchee as far south as Kunda, laying waste the whole province. The feeble government of Khelat did

[illegible] the departure of Lieutenant Leech, Sir A. Burnes addressed angry letters to Mehrab Khan, and the latter was most unjustly accused of seizing, or destroying divers stores of grain, collected by order of Lieutenant Leech for the use of the British army.

When Shah Soojah, Sir W. MacNaughten, and the British forces, arrived in Sind (with also the pretender to the Khanate of Khelat, Shah Newaz, in their camp), Mehrab Khan wished to send envoys to express his good will and submission, and the same Mahomed Hussan caused himself to be chosen for this duty. Mahomed Hussan accordingly proceeded to meet the advancing army, and found Sir W. MacNaughten at Bagh.

Mahomed Hussan there represented to Sir W. MacNaughten that his master Mehrab was full of plots, and evil intentions; but that he himself (Mahomed Hussan) was the most devoted friend of the British. The bearing and tact of Mahomed Hussan might have imposed on any man who believed that worth could co-exist with treachery; and was successful in completely deceiving both Sir W. MacNaughten and Sir A. Burnes.

Mahomed Hussan was received as a fast friend of the British, and was dismissed with instructions to endeavour to prevent his prince from becoming our enemy.

He returned to Khelat, and informed Mehrab Khan that the English were determined on his ruin, making use of every argument in his power to convince him that his only chance of safety lay in open opposition.

At the same time this Mahomed Hussan, having, as minister, the Khan's seal in his possession, wrote letters to Beejar Khan Doombkee, and other predatory chiefs, to direct them to attack and plunder the British convoys passing through Kutchee, to oppose the march of the troops, and otherwise to give the British authorities all the annoyance in their power.

Many of these letters fell into the hands of Mr. Bell, the Political Agent in Sind, and were esteemed as conclusive evidence against Mehrab Khan, though he had no hand in their issue, and knew not of their existence.

From Quetah, Sir A. Burnes was sent by Sir W. MacNaughten as Envoy to Khelat, for the purpose of removing ill impressions, and making friendly arrangements with the Khan, with the view of keeping our communications through Kutchee safe and free.

Everything was apparently agreed to, and it was settled that the [illegible]an was to proceed to Quetah to pay his respects to Shah Soojah; but [illegible]A. Burnes was again completely deceived by Mahomed Hussan, [illegible]med Sherif, and other clever traitors in their train.

[illegible] Khan was made to believe that the English intended to imprison

him. Still he would have accompanied Sir A. Burnes; but he was induced to quit him, and proceed in advance to Quetah, leaving his Hindoo Moonshee, Mohun Lal, to conduct His Highness the Khan.

Mohun Lal intrigued on his own account, and the Khan, uncertain on whom to depend, delayed his march.

Meanwhile Mahomed Hussan managed to have Sir A. Burnes waylaid and attacked at night by some of his (Mahomed Hussan's) own servants, and robbed of a sum of money, and the draft of the Treaty agreed to and signed by Mehrab Khan.

Sir A. Burnes was of course made to believe, without a shadow of doubt, that this outrage had been committed by order of Mehrab Khan; against whom, worked on by the intrigues of Mahomed Hussan, Mahomed Sherif, and others, he now became indignant.

Sir A. Burnes proceeded to tell his tale to Sir W. MacNaughten; no further friendly negociations were attempted; but it was determined to punish Mehrab Khan when convenient.

Moolla Mahomed Hussan continued in secret communication with the British authorities; but now assured his master that his cause was desperate, and that the only course left him was to assemble his forces, and resist as he could, the attack which had become inevitable.

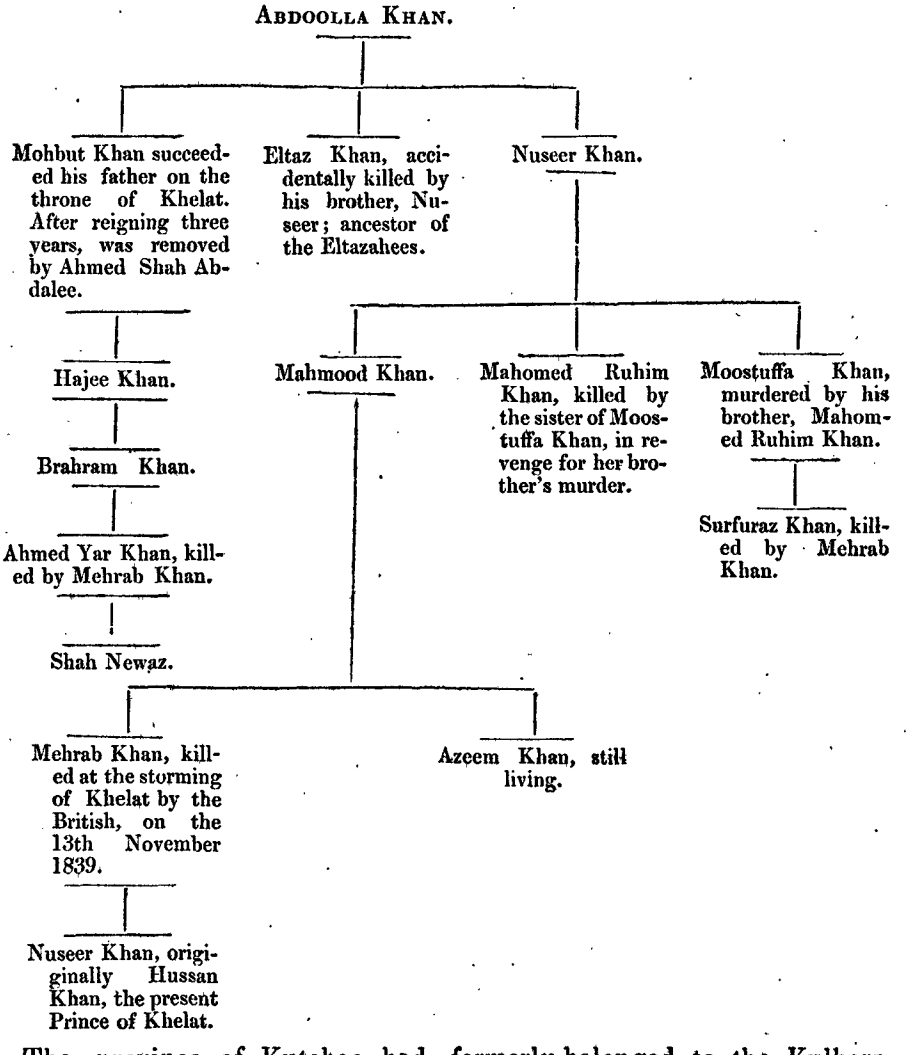
Meanwhile all the predatory tribes owing allegiance to Khelat were incited, by Mahomed Hussan and Mahomed Sherif, to plunder and annoy the British in every way. What followed is notorious.

When Sir Thomas Wiltshire's division was returning to India, the General was ordered to turn off from Quetah and attack Khelat.

The place was taken by storm on the 13th November 1839. Mehrab Khan was killed, and the town and citadel given up to plunder, Mahomed Hussan and Mahomed Sherif surrendering themselves to the British.

The young son of Mehrab Khan, Nuseer, then some fourteen years old, became a fugitive; and the British authorities set up, as Khan of Khelat, Shah Newaz, a descendant of an elder branch of the family of Mehrab Khan, but which branch had been deposed by Ahmed Shah Abdalee a century before, and had not since then pretended to the Khanate with any chance of success.

Lineage of the Khans of Khelat.


ABDOOLLA KHAN.
Mohbut Khan succeeded his father on the throne of Khelat. After reigning three years, was removed by Ahmed Shah Abdalee.
Eltaz Khan, accidentally killed by his brother, Nuseer; ancestor of the Eltazahees.
Nuseer Khan.
Hajee Khan.
Mahmood Khan.
Mahomed Ruhim Khan, killed by the sister of Moostuffa Khan, in revenge for her brother's murder.
Moostuffa Khan, murdered by his brother, Mahomed Ruhim Khan.
Brahram Khan.
Surfuraz Khan, killed by Mehrab Khan.
Ahmed Yar Khan, killed by Mehrab Khan.
Shah Newaz.
Mehrab Khan, killed at the storming of Khelat by the British, on the 13th November 1839.
Azeem Khan, still living.
Nuseer Khan, originally Hussan Khan, the present Prince of Khelat.

The province of Kutchee had formerly belonged to the Kulhora Ameers of Sind, but was taken from them by Nadir Shah, and given to Mohbut Khan, Chief of Khelat, in requital for the death of his father, Abdoolla Khan, killed in battle with the Kulhora Prince. Since the time of Nadir Shah, Kutchee had been the undisputed territory of the Chiefs of Khelat.

But when, after the overthrow of Mehrab Khan, the British set up Shah Newaz as Prince of Khelat, it was thought proper to sever from his territory the province of Kutchee, which was accordingly annexed to the territories of Shah Soojah-ool-Moolk, and administered by Bri-

All this being arranged, Shah Newaz was established at [illegible] a British Resident, Lieutenant Loveday, at his court; another Political Agent, Captain Bean, being posted in Shawul. Neither of these officers was, perhaps, well chosen, and neither proved equal to the delicate and difficult task he had to perform: their proceedings excited neither the respect, the fear, nor the love of the Brahoees, who, on the contrary, either hated or despised them both. Shah Newaz appears to have acted with good faith and considerable ability throughout the transactions which followed; but the Brahoee tribes rose against him, whom they considered an usurper, and in favour of the young Nuseer Khan. The English Resident was murdered, Shah Newaz compelled to abdicate, and an open war commenced between the young Khan and the British.

Several confused and disorderly encounters took place between the Brahoees and the British troops at Kotree, Dadur, and other places.

Rapine, violence, and anarchy prevailed through the country, until, on the death of Mr. Bell, Political Agent in Upper Sind, in August 1841, Colonel Outram, then Political Agent in Lower Sind, was appointed to the management of all Sind and Beloochistan. Acting on the advice of this officer, the British Government reversed its former policy.

To Colonel Stacy was entrusted the difficult task of inducing the young Nuseer Khan to come in to the British authorities. In this he succeeded with the most consummate ability. In company with Colonel Stacy, the young son of Mehrab Khan waited on Colonel Outram, and was replaced on the throne of his father in full sovereignty; and Kutchee, with all other forfeited portions of his territory, was then restored to him.

A British officer of ability and experience was appointed to reside at the court of Khelat, and order was speedily restored throughout the country.

A Treaty between the British Government and the new Khan of Khelat was made, as follows:—

Treaty entered into between Major OUTRAM, *on behalf of the Government of India, and* Meer NUSEER KHAN, *Chief of Khelat, on his own part.*

Whereas Meer Nuseer Khan, son of Mehrab Khan, deceased, having tendered his allegiance and submission, the British Government and His Majesty Shah Soojah-ool-Mool recognise him, the said Nuseer Khan, and his descendants, as Chief of the Principality of Khelat, on the following terms:—

I. Meer Nuseer Khan acknowledges himself and his descendants the vassals of the King of Kabool, in like manner as his ancestors were formerly vassals of His Majesty's ancestors.

II. Of the tracts of country resumed on the death of Meer Mehrab Khan, namely Kutchee, Mustoong, and Shawul, the two first will be restored to Meer Nuseer Khan and his descendants, through the kindness of His Majesty Shah Soojah-ool-Moolk.

III. Should it be deemed necessary to station troops, whether belonging to the Honorable Company or Shah Soojah-ool-Moolk, in any part of the territory of Khelat, they shall occupy such positions as may be thought advisable.

IV. Meer Nuseer Khan, his heirs and successors, will always be guided by the advice of the British officer residing at his Durbar.

V. The passage of merchants and others into Afghanistan, from the river Indus on the one side, and from the sea-port of Sonmeeanee on the other, shall be protected by Meer Nuseer Khan as far as practicable; nor will any oppression be practised on such persons, nor any undue exactions made, beyond an equitable toll, to be fixed by the British Government and Meer Nuseer Khan.

VI. Meer Nuseer Khan binds himself, his heirs and successors, not to hold any political communication, nor enter into any negociations with foreign powers, without the consent of the British Government, and of His Majesty Shah Soojah-ool-Moolk, and in all cases to act in subordinate co-operation with the Governments of British India and of the Shah; but the usual amicable correspondence with neighbours to continue as heretofore.

VII. In case of an attack on Meer Nuseer Khan by an open enemy, or of any difference arising between him and any foreign power, the British Government will afford him assistance, or good offices, as it may judge to be necessary or proper for the maintenance of his rights.

VIII. Meer Nuseer Khan will make due provision for the support of Shah Newaz Khan, either by pension, to be paid through the British Government, on condition of that chief residing within the British territory, or by grant of estate within the Khelat possessions, as may hereafter be decided by the British Government.

Done at Khelat, this 6th day of October A. D. 1841, *corresponding with the* A. H. 1257.*

Henceforth the Brahoee tribes, and all those of Western Kutchee, remained in peace and quiet; but meanwhile the predatory tribes of Eastern Kutchee, the Doombkees and Jekranees, and the hill-tribes, the Murrees and Bhoogtees, had been at open war with the British.

During the year 1839, Beejar Khan and his lawless followers, induced by habit and inclination, as well as by the intrigues of the treacherous

* This Treaty has been subsequently annulled.

minister, Mahomed Hussan, attacked, and attempted to plunder every party passing through Kutchee.

In this way, they did immense injury to the British: no man was safe; and the troops were harassed beyond endurance, by the strength and frequency of the escorts required through the hot season.

Mr. Bell, the Political Agent, in May 1839, endeavoured to make an arrangement with Beejar Khan, whereby, for a payment of some Rs. 3,000 a month, the marauding chief should agree to abstain from plundering, and to protect our convoys; but the Doombkee scornfully rejected the offer.

It was then determined to send a force against him, and to attack the robbers in Poolajee, &c.; and on the 3rd June 1839, 40 European soldiers, artillery and infantry, with Lieutenant Corry, of H. M.'s 77th regiment, marched from Sukkur to Shikarpoor, under command of Captain Jacob, to join the intended expedition to Kutchee.

The heat proved so intense, that in spite of all possible care, and though the men marched only at night, Lieutenant Corry and 11 of the European soldiers died by the way. At this time, the thermometer in the hospital shed at Shikarpoor was standing daily at from 130° to 140° Fahr.

It was thought impossible to carry on military operations in such weather, and the expedition was for the time abandoned. Beejar had full information regarding our intended proceedings, and now, of course, his marauding parties became more bold than before.

However, in the month of October 1839, another force was prepared, which, under command of Major Billamore, of the 1st Bombay Grenadier regiment, proceeded to operate against the predatory tribes of Eastern Kutchee, and the neighbouring hills.

This detachment arrived at Poolajee early in November 1839; but Beejar Khan, with the whole of his followers, had abandoned the plain country, and, with their wives and families, taken refuge in the Murree and Bhoogtee Hills, which commence at a distance of five miles only from the town of Poolajee.

After considerable delay, it was determined that the British detachment should enter these formidable mountains, and attack the robbers in their strongholds.

Accordingly Major Billamore entered the hills in two detachments, one proceeding by the route of the Lharee river to Kahun, and the other to Deyra *viâ* the Goree.

Both parties reached the places above mentioned without serious opposition, but not without great labour, by reason of the extraordinarily difficult nature of the country.

At Deyra, the British detachment was twice attacked by the whole

Bhoogtee tribe, who were defeated with severe loss. Their Chief, Bebruck, was seized, and sent prisoner to Sind. Many other minor affairs occurred with the mountaineers, who were always beaten with loss.

Major Billamore marched over the hills from Deyra to Kahun with his artillery, took possession of that place, and thence proceeded over the Passes of Nuffoosk, Surtoff, &c. to Poolajee, having traversed the hills in every direction, making roads as he went, taking his artillery everywhere over everything, and having beaten the enemy in every encounter.

Meanwhile Beejar Khan, Durya Khan, and the other Chiefs of the Doombkees and Jekranees, finding themselves unsafe in the hills while Major Billamore was at Deyra, went in, and surrendered to the political officers in the plain, and were imprisoned by order of Mr. Bell, the Political Agent.

British troops of all three arms were now posted at Lharee, Poolajee, Chuttur, and Shahpoor.

Belooch Khan, the Doombkee Chief, who had from the first refused to join Beejar in hostilities against the English, was, with his followers, treated with consideration and favour, but the other portion of the Doombkee tribe, and the Jekranees, were deprived of their lands at Poolajee, Chuttur, &c.; and an attempt was made to replace on them the Khyheerees, who had been driven out by Beejar, eleven or twelve years before.

The Khyheerees in the British service, to the number of 200 men, did, indeed, in consequence return to their old abode; but the bulk of the tribe feared to do so, and remained in Sind, with all their families and property.

It was also determined that British troops should permanently occupy the town of Kahun; and in pursuance of this resolution, 300 men of the 5th regiment of Bombay N. I., with a detachment of artillery, with two field-pieces, and a small party of the Sind Irregular Horse, under Lieutenant Clarke, the whole under command of Captain Lewis Brown, of the 5th regiment, entered the hills on the 2nd May 1840. Captain Brown was slightly opposed by the Murrees at the Pass of Nuffoosk, when Lieutenant Clarke and several men were wounded, and one killed on our side.

The detachment reached Kahun, however, in safety, on the evening of the 11th May 1840, having with them provisions for four months. On the 16th, Lieutenant Clarke proceeded from Kahun, with the camels which had carried the provisions to Kahun, some 600 in number, 50 men of the Sind Irregular Horse, and 150 of the 5th regiment N. I. According to instructions received from Captain Brown, 80 men of the infantry, under command of a Subedar, were sent back by Lieutenant

Clarke after he had crossed Nuffoosk in safety. On its way back to Kahun, this party was attacked by the whole force of the Murree tribe, and destroyed to a man.

The Murrees then, flushed with success, achieved with such unexpected ease, followed up Lieutenant Clarke, and came on him at Surtoff, which he had descended in safety.

Totally unaware of what had occurred at Nuffoosk, Lieutenant Clarke had halted for the night at the water at the foot of Surtoff. Seeing the Murrees occupying the hills about his camp, he proceeded to attack them with a portion of his infantry. His ammunition failed, and being overwhelmed by numbers, he was killed, with all the men with him. Most of the horsemen, bringing with them 12 of the infantry, escaped to Lharee; the rest of the party were destroyed, and all the camels fell into the hands of the enemy.

Communication with Kahun was now cut off. It was closely invested by the Murrees, who, however, dared not assault the place. Captain Brown was left to his own resources until August 1840, when Major Clibborn, with a regiment of infantry, half a field battery, and 300 of the Sind and Poona Horse, was sent to relieve Kahun with supplies and reinforcements.

When Major Clibborn reached Nuffoosk, on the 31st August, he found it occupied by the Murrees in great strength. The heat of the weather was excessive, and Major Clibborn found no water at Nuffoosk. The British detachment arrived on the spot at 10 A. M., and at 2 P. M. Major Clibborn proceeded to storm the pass.

The path is steep and narrow, and the advance party, nobly led by Captain Raitt of the Grenadiers, was overwhelmed by showers of stones and shot, its leader and several other officers were killed, and its shattered remains, mingled with thousands of the Murrees, were driven headlong down the hill. Without a moment's pause, the crowd of Murrees threw themselves on the main body of Major Clibborn's detachment, and a close fight ensued, which speedily ended in the repulse of the mountaineers, leaving 240 of their best men dead on the ground.

The Murrees had fled, but want of water and intense heat had exhausted the British troops. Major Clibborn made no attempt to follow, but sent his artillery horses, under charge of a treacherous guide, to where it was said they would find water.

The guide, one Meer Hussein Nootanee, now a state prisoner at Poona, led them into an ambuscade. The horses were taken, and the escort was destroyed.

On receiving information of this disaster at 10 P. M., Major Clibborn determined to abandon Kahun to its fate, and retreat as he best could to the plains.

Guns, camels, stores, and all else, were abandoned, and the *débris* of the force fled to Poolajee, which place they reached in safety, the Murrees having suffered far too severely to attempt any pursuit or annoyance.

Captain Brown, being now left to his fate, remained holding the town of Kahun until the 28th September, when, having entirely exhausted his provisions, nearly expended his ammunition, and having 40 men of his small garrison totally disabled by sickness, he* evacuated the place under agreement with the Murrees; and with noble determination, taking his howitzer with him, after infinite exertion reached Poolajee on the 1st October 1840.

The hill-tribes were now left alone. Beejar Khan, and the other chiefs in prison, were released, and restored to their lands in the plains of Kutchee, whence the Khyheerees were again unceremoniously ejected by the Political Agent, Mr. Bell.

At the end of the year 1841, after the death of Mr. Bell, when Major Outram had succeeded to the Political Agency in Upper Sind and Beloochistan, and had restored Nuseer Khan to his father's throne, new arrangements were made throughout Kutchee.

Seebee had been taken possession of in the name of Shah Soojah, and a Political Officer was now appointed to reside there; our troops were withdrawn from Lharee; Kutchee was restored to Khelat, and measures were taken to prevent any further annoyance from the predatory tribes.

The tranquillity of this country, and the good will of its chiefs and people, now became of the greatest possible importance, by reason of the revolt of the Afghans, and the state of affairs at Kabool. Our disasters there were well known to the chiefs of the predatory tribes in Kutchee and on the frontier, as well as to the Ameers of Sind, while our available military force was very small.

In December 1841, the Political Agent, Colonel Outram, selected Captain Jacob for the command of the Sind Irregular Horse, and the political charge of Eastern Kutchee. By reason of the number of men detached, only about 250 men of the Sind Irregular Horse were available for service in this quarter; but a company of native infantry and two field-pieces were posted at Chuttur, which place Captain Jacob made his head quarters.

A field-work was drawn round the camp, and provisions were stored in it for three months, by which arrangements every single horseman became available for active service outside.

The principal leaders of the predatory tribes, with about 150 of their

* An interesting Private Journal, kept by Captain Brown during his occupation of the fort of Kahun, follows this Memoir, at page 161.—EDITOR.

horsemen, were taken into the British service, and attached to the Sind Irregular Horse. Among these were Beejar Khan, Mahomed Khan, and Mundoo Khan, Doombkees, Durya Khan and Toork Ali, Jekranees. The arrangement succeeded well.

Toork Ali, the oldest man and shrewdest robber in the country, then ninety years of age (still living and in good health, and now—1854—104 years old), proved treacherous, and deserted to the Bhoogtees, in whose hills he managed to collect a large body of outlaws and plunderers to the number of 1,500, with whom he attempted an inroad into Sind ; but the attempt proved vain, for on Captain Jacob proceeding to attack Toork Ali and his followers, who had assembled at Ooch, the robbers dispersed. Their array was completely broken up, and Toork Ali compelled to fly to the Punjaub. Beejar Khan and all the other wild chiefs, with their followers, proved perfectly faithful during all the trying period of 1842, and exerted themselves actively and honestly under the British officers in preserving the peace of the country.

The Muzarees, Boordees, Bhoogtees, and others were kept completely in check ; our communications through Upper Sind and Kutchee were preserved unmolested, and no successful inroad into Sind occurred during the whole year 1842. The following communication was made to Captain Jacob by the Political Agent on this subject :—

Letter from the Political Agent in Sind and Beloochistan to Lieutenant Jacob, *Commanding Sind Irregular Horse, dated 9th November* 1842.

Sir,—I cannot depart from Sind without performing my duty to yourself and the corps you command, in acknowledging the great obligations I am under to you ; to Lieutenants Malcolm, and FitzGerald ; and to the Native officers and men of the Sind Irregular Rissala.

For the first time within the memory of man, Kutchee and Upper Sind have been for a whole year entirely free from the irruptions of the hill-tribes, by which villages were annually destroyed, lives and property sacrificed, and the whole country kept in a state of fever.

During the past year, the emissaries of our enemies had been unremitting in their exertions to instigate the northern hill-tribes to resume their marauding habits, with a view to disturb our communication with Afghanistan, through Sind and Kutchee ; and so far succeeded, that large bands of freebooters were at one time assembled for the purpose, under some of the most noted of their former leaders : but in vain they strove to effect their objects, which were solely counteracted by the indomitable zeal with which you, your officers, and men, so constantly exposed yourselves, especially throughout the hot months, whereby every attempt of the marauders to enter the plains was baffled. The extraordinary vigilance you have exerted, and the strict discipline you

have maintained, not merely in the Sind Rissala, but also among the quotas of Belooch Horse which were under your orders, have deterred the northern tribes from committing themselves in hostility during the late exciting period, in dread of the corps you so ably command.

I am bound, accordingly, to attribute to the Sind Irregular Horse the profound tranquillity which has been preserved in Upper Sind and Kutchee, and I beg you will accept yourself, and convey to your officers and men, my grateful thanks. I have the honour to annex an extract, paragraph 11, from a despatch which I addressed to Mr. Secretary Maddock, on the 9th ultimo, expressing my obligations to you personally.

(Signed) J. Outram, Major,
Political Agent in Sind and Beloochistan.

By the end of November 1842, all the British troops and functionaries had been withdrawn from Afghanistan, Beloochistan, and Kutchee; the Belooch Chiefs and followers were dismissed from our service; the camp at Shikarpoor was ordered to be abandoned; and the whole British military force in Upper Sind was concentrated at Sukkur.

Then came the war in Sind, and in the month of March 1843, the province was annexed to the British dominions.

During the year 1843, no troops were stationed on the Frontier, and no one was placed in charge of it.

Beejar Khan, with his Doombkees and Jekranees, having been for a full year in peace and quiet, returned to a life of rapine and adventure with double zest: they were joined by many hundreds of discontented, lawless, and desperate characters from Sind and the neighbouring countries, and the robber tribes of Kutchee became more formidable than ever.

Their inroads extended up to Shikarpoor and to Larkhana; the country was laid waste, and no man's life or property was for a moment safe.

The robbers entered Sind in bodies of 500 horse or more, and sacked and burnt large villages within the British border in open day, with perfect impunity.

By the end of 1843, nothing could have been worse than the state of affairs in this part of the country; no man on either side of the desert could find safety, except by joining the robbers.

All this evil might have been prevented by retaining, or again entering in our service, the best of the border chiefs, with a sufficient [illegible] of their followers, to form an effective police; but nothing was [illegible]ntil the end of 1843, when the Governor of Sind attempted to [illegible]y these terrible disorders by building a fort at Larkhana, and there

posting the Sind Camel Corps, then being raised, placing strong detachments of cavalry at Khyree Ghuree and Rojan, a regiment of cavalry with a field battery at Khangur, and a strong brigade at Shikarpoor; frontier head quarters being established at the last-named place, and an officer especially appointed to command the whole frontier.

But neither officers nor men well understood their work, and these measures did not prove effectual: the country-people were not in the least protected; the wildest disorder, rapine, and bloodshed everywhere prevailed; the British troops were several times signally defeated by the robbers, and were never successful against them; while, on the other hand, they not only did not protect our peasantry, but sometimes killed and wounded great numbers of them by mistake.

This state of affairs continued till, in January 1845, Sir C. Napier in person, with Generals Hunter and Simpson, at the head of an army of about 7,000 men of all arms, and accompanied by Meer Ali Moorad, with an auxiliary force of some 4,000 Beloochees, proceeded against the robber tribes of Kutchee under Beejar Khan Doombkee.

Beejar, of course, fled before the coming storm; and with all his followers, and their families, took refuge in the Bhoogtee Hills, the Bhoogtees making common cause with them. Sir C. Napier followed with all his forces, and pursued them in the hills for two months or more; but the pursuit would have been in vain, but that at last the Murrees (the negociations with whom had been entrusted to Major Jacob) were induced to deny the fugitives a passage through their country.

Unexpectedly cut off from that side, the Doombkees and Jekranees surrendered, Beejar Khan, with the chief portion of the former tribe, to Ali Moorad, the others to Sir C. Napier; but Islam Khan and his Bhoogtees all effected their retreat to the Khetranee country.

Beejar Khan and his son, Wuzeer Khan, with the rest of his family and followers, remained state prisoners in custody of Meer Ali Moorad till 1851, when Beejar Khan having died of old age, his family was released at the request of Major Jacob, and was allowed to return to Kutchee, where they joined their Chief, Belooch Khan, and have up to this time been behaving peaceably and well.

The persons released on this occasion amounted to about 1,500 souls, men, women, and children.

The Jekranees under Durya Khan, with the remaining portion of the Doombkees under Jumal Khan, with other associated petty tribes who surrendered on this occasion to Sir C. Napier, were removed t[illegible] and established at and near Janadeyra, close to the border o[illegible] These then became tribes of British Sind, and will henceforth be t[illegible] under that head.

While the troops were in the hills, Major Jacob was instructed by Sir C. Napier to endeavour to induce the Chandias or Murrees to settle in Kutchee, on the lands from which the Doombkees and Jekranees were removed: but these tribes feared to occupy them; and Major Jacob then recommended that the rightful owners, the Khyheerees, should be re-established on the lands of their fathers.

Sir C. Napier at once assented, and offered to confirm whatever arrangement Major Jacob thought best, and could make. Major Jacob was personally intimately acquainted with all the Khyheeree Chiefs; but their fears were great, and much difficulty was experienced by him in inducing them again to occupy the country from which they had been forcibly expelled. However, at last they consented in good earnest, and sent for their women, children, and families from Sind.

They were then formally reinstated in their lands, with the full consent of the Khan of Khelat, with whom Major Jacob was instructed to arrange the matter.

After Sir C. Napier left the hills and returned to the plain, the Khan of Khelat waited on him by appointment at Shahpoor.

Nothing was, however, arranged at this interview, in any way calculated to strengthen the Khan's hands, or enable him to establish good government in his dominions.

Sir C. Napier considered the Treaty of 1841 as waste paper; and the influence of the traitor, Mahomed Hussan, was still paramount in the Khelat Durbar.

No permanent arrangement of any kind was made. In short, the position of the Khan was quite misunderstood; the interview was rather productive of mischief than otherwise, for the traitors now thought their policy secure.

After the hill campaign, a detachment, consisting of two companies of infantry, a troop of cavalry, and a field-piece, was posted at Shahpoor in Kutchee, the Bundelkund Legion was posted at Khangur, &c., its Commandant, Captain Beatson, being appointed to the special command of the frontier.

The Sind Camel Corps was posted, as before, at Larkhana, and was included in the frontier force.

The country remained quiet for some months; but the Jekranees and Doombkees having been removed, the Murrees and Bhoogtees, now finding the way open to them, took their places as border robbers.

Their proceedings are described under the proper heads. Soon after Sir C. Napier's departure from Sind in October 1847, Major Jacob was formally appointed Political Superintendent and Commandant of the Frontier of Upper Sind.

Vukeels were appointed by the Khan of Khelat and Meer Ali Moorad,

to reside with him at Jacobabad, and other arrangements were made, which will be described when treating of the British territory.

The traitorous Wuzeer, Mahomed Hussan, was now at the zenith of his power, and thought that the time had come to bring matters to a crisis.

After many preliminary negociations, and a formal visit to Major Jacob by his brother Mahomed Ameen, the Governor of Kutchee, to feel his way, Mahomed Hussan asked to be allowed himself to visit the Political Superintendent at Jacobabad.

He came, accordingly, on the 11th March 1851. At this time Major Jacob was not fully acquainted with the extent of his treachery; while the man's noble bearing and great mental power might have enabled him to deceive any one not on his guard.

On the occasion of this first visit, Mahomed Hussan remained at Jacobabad for a fortnight or more, and had strictly private confidential conferences with Major Jacob; but during all that time only affected the greatest zeal for the welfare of his prince, the Khan of Khelat, and Major Jacob had little suspicion of the game which he was playing.

The following year he again sought an interview; again came to Jacobabad, and now explained his real object, which was in effect to obtain the consent of the British Government to his usurpation of the Khanate of Khelat, of which he already possessed all the real power. As soon as this object was clear beyond a doubt, Major Jacob told him that he was a traitor; and next day he departed on his return to Khelat.

Finding success now hopeless, as regarded the countenance of the British authorities, Mahomed Hussan became desperate, intrigued with the Murrees, whom he assisted in plundering in Kutchee, and did all in his power to prevent peace and quiet being established.

When proper opportunity occurred, Major Jacob explained all these matters fully to the Khan of Khelat, who was with some difficulty convinced of the truth of what was reported to him regarding his Wuzeer, by whom he had been kept in a state of perfect ignorance; but being of a good disposition, and not wanting in natural ability, Nuseer Khan soon roused himself, and endeavoured to transact the business of his government in person. Mahomed Hussan was removed from office, and placed in arrest (but not in confinement), in which position he still remains.

In February 1854, at the request of Major Jacob, the Khan of Khelat himself came to Jacobabad, to meet Mr. Frere, the Commissioner in Sind. This personal interview had the best effects, in removing doubts and misunderstandings, and completely overthrew whatever remained of the influence and power of the traitor, Mahomed Hussan. The Khan and his Sirdars returned well pleased from the conference.

CHIEF BORDER TRIBES.

The chief border tribes living within the British territory of Sind are the Muzarees, the Boordees, the Khosas, the Jumalees, the Jettoees, the Doombkees, the Jekranees, and others.

Muzarees.

The Muzarees inhabit the country on the right bank of the Indus, between Mithenkot and Boordeka. This tract is chiefly in the Punjaub, a small part only falling within the boundary of Sind.

The head of the whole tribe at present is one Dost Ali: he resides at Rojan, about half-way between Mithenkot and Kusmore.

The strength of the Muzaree tribe may be about 2,000 adult males.

The habits of the tribe were wholly, and are still to a great extent, predatory. These Muzarees continually plundered the river-boats, and made frequent incursions into the Bhawulpoor territory, on the left bank of the Indus.

They were often at war with the Bhoogtees and Murrees, and feared not to proceed to attack these people in their hills. They at times even proceeded so far as to attack the Doombkees and Jekranees at Poolajee, Chuttur, &c. from whom they occasionally succeeded in driving off much cattle.

The Muzarees are the most expert cattle-stealers in the border country, and had the reputation of being brave warriors.

Not many of the tribe now remain in Sind, even in the Kusmore district. Most of them have left that part of the country, and taken up their abode with their chief and brethren in the Punjaub, where they are allowed to bear arms, which they are not permitted to do in Sind.

They still make occasional plundering excursions into the Bhawulpoor country, and the British territory on the eastern bank of the Indus.

Boordees.

The Boordees reside chiefly in the district called after them, Boordeka, which lies on the western bank of the Indus, between the Muzaree district on the north, and the Sind Canal on the south.

The head of the tribe is Shere Mahomed, who resides at the town of Sheregur, on the Beegaree Canal.

The numerical strength of the Boordees amounts to about 800 adult males. The whole tribe does not reside in Boordeka, there being several petty chiefs and detached branches of the Boordees in various parts of Sind and Kutchee, as for instance Ali Shere of Burshoree.

The Boordees first came in contact with the British in 1838, when the fortress of Bukkur was handed over to the British by Meer Roostum of Khyrpoor.

The habits of the tribe were formerly wholly predatory, and up to 1847 the Boordees made frequent marauding inroads on their neighbours in Kutchee, and in the hills, as well as in Sind.

In 1839 the Boordees, in common with the Belooch tribes of Kutchee, continually plundered the British convoys, &c. moving towards Afghanistan: on this account the Chief, Shere Mahomed, was imprisoned by Meer Roostum of Khyrpoor (whose subjects the Boordees were), and sent to Mr. Bell, then Political Agent in Upper Sind.

Several of the Boordee Chiefs, Shere Mahomed, Hajee Khan, and others, with a number of their followers, were then taken into British pay by the Political Agent; but proving faithless, and continuing their predatory habits, they were after a few months' trial discharged.

The tribe continued in the practice of murder and robbery, as before, until the year 1842, throughout which year, the country being well guarded, they abstained altogether from plunder.

On the deposition of Meer Roostum, and the conquest of Sind in 1843, Boordeka came under the rule of Meer Ali Moorad, and the Boordees resumed their predatory habits with more than wonted vigour; till, in 1844, Meer Ali Moorad seized the chiefs of the tribe, and kept them in close confinement in the fortress of Deejee.

The Boordee Chiefs remained in prison till December 1844, when Meer Ali Moorad released them, and directed them to accompany him, with as large a force of the tribe as they could command, on the hill campaign of Sir C. Napier. This they did, and were afterwards restored to favour.

After the predatory tribes of Kutchee (Doombkees, Jekranees, &c.) had been transported and settled by Sir C. Napier on the Sind border, they joined the Boordees and Khosas in carrying on frequent plundering excursions in secret: their lawless proceedings were generally attributed to the Bhoogtees, and other "Hillmen," till 1847, when the Sind Horse was again posted on the frontier, and Major Jacob discovered and broke up the whole confederacy of robbers on the British border, and punished many of the offenders. At this time every one in this country went armed; but Major Jacob now applied for, and obtained permission to disarm all men not in Government employ, and this rule was rigidly enforced.

Meer Ali Moorad also gave Major Jacob full power over all his subjects on the border; but the greater part of the district of Boordeka was covered with almost impenetrable jungle: its nature afforded great facilities to the practice of robbery, which, in spite of every effort, was carried on by the Boordees occasionally, in gangs of from six to twenty men, calling themselves Bhoogtees, but really inhabitants of Sind.

In order to lay open this wild country, Major Jacob obtained permis-

sion to cut roads through the jungle. This was done, and, together with the other measures adopted, proved completely successful in quieting the country, which has thenceforth become as orderly and peaceable as possible; the people have taken wholly to agricultural and pastoral pursuits, and cultivation has greatly increased.

Boordeka became British territory in 1852, when the lands of Meer Roostum, which had been given to Ali Moorad at the time of the conquest of Sind, were again resumed from him.

The revenue of the district was about Rs. 60,000; but since the whole became British territory, and great works of irrigation and communication have been executed in it, the revenue must rapidly increase, and will probably speedily be doubled.

Khosas.

The Khosas are a very numerous Belooch tribe, not confined to any one locality, but scattered all over the country, from Nuggur Parkur to Dadur. The men are plunderers, cultivators, soldiers or shepherds, according to circumstances. There are several villages of this tribe on the Sind border.

They have now few peculiarities to distinguish them from the other tribes of Sind and Kutchee; but are said originally to have been Abyssinians, and some have derived their name from "Cush;" but of this nothing certain, or even probable, can be discovered.

The number of the tribe on the Sind border now amounts to about 300 adult males.

Jettoees and Jumalees.

The Jettoees and Jumalees are two Belooch tribes.

Both tribes are numerous, and scattered about the country of Upper Sind and Kutchee. They are cultivators and artificers; and, as bodies, are not predatory.

Doombkees and Jekranees.

The Doombkees and Jekranees were the most formidable and warlike of all the Belooch tribes, of hill or plain. They, up to the year 1845, resided in the plains of Eastern Kutchee, where they held the lands of Lharee, Wuzeera, Poolajee, Chuttur, &c.

When the British forces first entered the country in 1839, the position of these tribes was as has been already described under the proper head.

After Sir C. Napier's hill campaign in 1845, that portion of the Doombkee tribe which had surrendered to him at Trukkee was placed under a Chief by name Jumal Khan, on lands near Janadeyra, on the Sind frontier.

Durya Khan and Toork Ali, with the Jekranees, and some men of other clans, were settled at Janadeyra itself, and its neighbourhood.

The lands were granted to these men free for three years (which grant was afterwards at Major Jacob's request altered to a free grant in perpetuity), and it was expected that they would now take to agricultural pursuits, and entirely leave their former predatory habits.

A Commissioner was appointed to reside at Janadeyra, and superintend the reformed Beloochees.

A strong detachment was posted at Shahpoor, in Kutchee, and the other frontier arrangements were made as before described. These arrangements did not prove successful.

The Doombkees and Jekranees, Khosas, Boordees, &c., with or without permission, made repeated plundering excursions from British Sind into the neighbouring countries, both hill and plain; the Bhoogtees did the same from their side into Sind: murder and robbery everywhere prevailed.

The troops were shut up in forts, and did nothing to protect the people. The people themselves were encouraged to bear arms, and to commit acts of violence, the lives and property of the Bhoogtees being ordered to be taken and destroyed wherever and however found, and a reward of Rs. 10 per head being offered for the destruction of the whole tribe, and proclaimed throughout the country.

The district along the border was left uncultivated; the canals were not cleared out for many years, and nearly all the peaceable people left the country.

The troops were perfectly isolated in their entrenchments; no supplies were drawn from the country folk, but all were fed as if on shipboard, by the commissariat. Even at the distant outpost of Shahpoor, in Kutchee, the troops and camp followers were supplied with every article of consumption from the public stores, forwarded by the commissariat department at an enormous cost from Shikarpoor, some 60 miles distant. Even the horses of the cavalry were fed in like manner.

The troops so placed being completely separated from the inhabitants of the country, and holding little or no communication with them, were entirely ignorant of their nature and habits, knew not friend from foe, and were always in a state of alarm, and expecting to be attacked, even at Shikarpoor itself.

Notwithstanding that the Bhoogtees had been proclaimed outlaws, a price set on the head of every man of the tribe, and all of them ordered to be treated as enemies wherever they were found, they were not subdued, nor indeed in any way weakened, by any of the proceedings of the Governor of Sind.

The removal of the Jekranees and Doombkees from Kutchee left the Sind border temptingly open to their incursions, and they failed not to take advantage of the circumstances; until at last, becoming more and

more bold by impunity, they assembled a force of some 1,500 armed men, mostly on foot, and on the 10th December 1846 marched into Sind, passed through the British outposts, who dared not to attack them, to within 15 miles of Shikarpoor, and remained twenty-four hours within the British territory, secured every head of cattle in the country around, and returned to their hills, some 75 miles distant, with all their booty, in perfect safety.

The Bhoogtees on this occasion conducted their proceedings in the most cool and systematic manner: they brought with them, besides the armed force above mentioned, nearly 500 unarmed followers, to drive the cattle, of which they obtained, by their own account, some 15,000 head. This inroad was thought to be in too great force for the detachments on the outposts to attempt anything against it.

Timely information reached the Shahpoor post, but no troops moved from it against the invading Bhoogtees.

A regiment of cavalry, and 200 Native rifles, were sent from Shikarpoor to repel the invaders. The cavalry came on them at Hoodoo, some 45 miles from Shikarpoor. The Bhoogtees halted *en masse*, their unarmed attendants meanwhile diligently continuing to drive on the cattle towards Soree, Kooshtuk, and the hills. However, the British troops were ignorant of the ground, thought the robbers too strong to be attacked, and returned to Shikarpoor without attempting anything further; the Bhoogtees ultimately reaching their hills with all their prey, without the loss of a man, save one killed by a distant random shot from the matchlock of a Jekranee.

One regiment of the Sind Irregular Horse, then at Hyderabad, was now ordered up with all speed to the frontier, where it arrived on the 9th January 1847.

Major Jacob was appointed to command the frontier, and since then has held this post. On arrival at Khangur, desolation and terror were found to prevail everywhere in the country; no man could go in safety from place to place, even on the main line of communication from Shirkarpoor to Jaghun, without a strong escort.

Not a man of the Belooch settlers, the Jekranees and Doombkees, had as yet attempted any peaceful labour, or ever put his hand to any agricultural implement. There were no made roads in any part of the country, and no bridges,—indeed there was not a single mile of good road in all Upper Sind.

At Khangur there was no village, no bazar, and but four or five wretched huts, containing 22 souls in all. The cavalry detachment was found by the Sind Irregular Horse, on arrival, *locked* up in the fort, the gate not being opened at eight o'clock in the morning; and this was the normal state of things.

On the night before the arrival of the Sind Irregular Horse, the Bhoogtees had carried off some camels from a detachment of the Baggage Corps between Jaghun and Shikarpoor; and this was their last successful attempt at plundering in Sind.

Our predecessors during the previous four years knew little or nothing of the country, or of the people on the border: the men of the Sind Irregular Horse were familiar with both, and this gave them confidence and power.

After assuming the command, and relieving the outposts, Major Jacob at once ordered all idea of *defensive* operations to be abandoned: every detachment was posted in the open plain, without any defensive works whatever; patrols were sent in every direction in which it was thought an enemy might appear, and these parties crossed and met so often, that support was almost certain to be at hand if wanted.

The parties were sent to distances of 40 miles into and beyond the desert, and along the frontier line.

Whenever a party of the Sind Irregular Horse came on any of the plunderers, it always fell on them at once, charging any number, however superior, without the smallest hesitation.

Against such sudden attacks, the robber horsemen never attempted a stand: they always fled at once, frequently sustaining heavy loss in men, and never succeeding in obtaining any plunder.

These proceedings, and particularly the tracks, daily renewed, of our parties all over the desert, and at all the watering-places near the hills, far beyond the British border, alarmed the robbers, and prevented their ever feeling safe; and they soon ceased to make attempts on the British territory, although still plundering all Kutchee. Meanwhile, Major Jacob had discovered that not only the Boordees and Muzarees, who were always inveterate marauders, but the Belooch settlers at Janadeyra, had been all along systematically carrying on plundering excursions on a considerable scale, entirely unknown to their Commissioner residing among them.

The horses of these Jekranees and Doombkees had been taken from them a year before, by order of Sir C. Napier, and sold by auction; but Major Jacob found that the sale had been fictitious, and that, according to the custom of the country, the former owners still retained shares in these horses.

It may be proper to explain here, that among the Belooch border tribes of Sind, a horse (or rather mare, for they ride only the latter) very seldom belongs to one man only, and sometimes the property in one mare is shared among as many as twenty men.

Thus, when the horses of the Jekranees and Doombkees were supposed to have been finally disposed of, only certain shares in them had

been sold: the animals were kept by various Zemindars all over the country, and whenever a foray from Sind was agreed on, the horses were ready for their old masters; the men left Janadeyra, &c. by ones and twos, went for their horses, and then proceeded to the appointed rendezvous, generally in the territory of Meer Ali Moorad, the village of Thool being a favourite place.

These musters sometimes amounted to as many as a hundred horse or more, with many other men on foot. After the foray into the hills or elsewhere, the booty obtained was shared at some place beyond the British boundary; the plunderers dispersed, replaced the horses with the Zemindars, and returned one by one to their homes.

The existence of these proceedings had never been suspected until pointed out by Major Jacob, and they at first were thought impossible; but having good information of what was going on, Major Jacob caused the places of these predatory rendezvous to be suddenly surrounded by parties of the Sind Irregular Horse, just after the return of a body of Jekranee plunderers from a foray; and the robbers were all secured, with their horses, arms, and a large quantity of stolen cattle.

Concealment was no longer possible, and Major Jacob now obtained permission to disarm every man in the country, not being a Government servant, which was at once done.

At the same time, Major Jacob set 500 of the Jekranees to work to clear the Nurwa Canal (a main feeder cleared by Government, then belonging to Ali Moorad).

The men were very awkward at first, but were strong, energetic, cheerful, and good-natured; they soon became used to the tools, and were then able to do a better day's work, and of course to earn more pay, than the ordinary Sindee labourers: the men seemed proud of this, and the experiment was perfectly successful.

Soon afterwards, the Belooch settlers took to manual labour in their own fields with spirit, and even pride. From that time they were really conquered, and commenced to be reformed: they are now the most hard-working, industrious, well-behaved, cheerful set of men in all Sind.

Their numbers amount to about 2,000 adult males; but for three years past not a man of them has been convicted, or even accused of any crime whatever, great or small: yet seven or eight years ago they were the terror of the country, murderers and robbers to a man.

Plundering having been put a stop to on the Sind side, and the border also protected from inroad from without, Major Jacob proceeded to render the Bhoogtees powerless for the future; and this was also accomplished, as has been before described. Since then, the country has been gradually becoming more and more peopled: the fort of Khangur

has been long ago totally destroyed, but near its site is now the town and camp of Jacobabad, of which the last census showed more than 11,000 inhabitants; and where there is a large bazar, with water, and supplies of all kinds, sufficient for an army.

Good roads have been made all over the country; means of irrigation have been multiplied four-fold; and everywhere on the border, life and activity, with perfect safety, exist: where formerly all was desert solitude or murderous violence, not an armed man is now ever seen, except the soldiers and police; and person and property are everywhere perfectly protected.

PRIVATE JOURNAL

KEPT BY

CAPTAIN LEWIS BROWN,

5TH REGT. BOMBAY N. I.

WHILE IN THE MURREE HILLS, FROM THE 8TH APRIL TO THE 11TH MAY 1840; ALSO DURING HIS OCCUPATION OF THE FORT OF KAHUN, FROM THE 11TH MAY TO THE 28TH SEPTEMBER 1840; AND DURING HIS RETREAT TO POOLAJEE, WHERE HE ARRIVED ON THE 1ST OCTOBER 1840, WITH THE DETACHMENT OF THE 5TH REGIMENT N. I., WITH WHICH HE HAD, FOR THE PERIOD OF NEARLY FIVE MONTHS, DEFENDED THE BRITISH OUTPOST AT KAHUN.

PRIVATE JOURNAL.

HAVING been appointed to the command of a detachment about to occupy Kahun, a walled town in the Murree Hills,* I proceeded to

* The following Notification was issued by the Bombay Government on the 29th March 1841, on the subject of Captain Brown's gallant defence of the British outpost at Kahun:—

NOTIFICATION.

Bombay Castle, 29th March 1841.

The Honorable the Governor in Council having recently had under his consideration a narrative of the proceedings of a detachment of the strength named in the margin, under the command of Captain Lewis Brown, of the 5th Regiment Native Infantry, in retaining possession for a period of nearly five months of the fort of Kahun, in defiance of repeated attempts of the enemy to dislodge them, has the highest gratification in publicly recording the high sense he entertains of the distinguished services of Captain Brown and the detachment under his command. In maintaining this post, Captain Brown has reported to Government that he was most ably seconded by Lieutenant D. Erskine, of the Artillery, and by Mr. Assistant Surgeon Glasse, who was in medical charge of the garrison.

140 Rank and File of the 5th Regiment Bombay Native Infantry, and one 12-pounder howitzer, in charge of Lieut. D. Erskine, of the Artillery.

Notwithstanding the critical position in which the garrison was placed, and the privations to which they were exposed, Captain Brown nobly refused to surrender the fort until the last extremity, and then only after he had secured for himself and brave comrades a safe retreat, with all the honours of war. The Governor in Council believes that there are few instances on record where, under circumstances of such great discouragement, a dangerous and harassing service, attended by severe privations, has been performed with greater cheerfulness, or with a more zealous devotion to the public service.

In order to testify his admiration of the gallantry, prudence, and perseverance which distinguished the conduct of Captain Brown in the defence of Kahun, and the fidelity and bravery of the officers and men under his command, the Governor in Council, with the sanction of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, is pleased to direct:—

First.—That in consideration of the honour conferred on the 5th Regiment Native Infantry, by the conduct of the detachment of that Corps in the defence of Kahun, this Regiment shall be permitted to have "Kahun" inscribed on their colours, and borne on their appointments.

Second.—That in consideration of the losses of the detachment, arising from want of carriage, and other causes, a donation of six months' batta shall be granted to the survivors of the garrison of Kahun, and the heirs of those who fell in its defence.

Third.—That this Order be read at the head of every Regiment of the Army of this Presidency, at a special parade to be held for this purpose.

The Honorable the Governor in Council will likewise have great satisfaction in bringing the distinguished services of Captain Brown, and the officers and men who composed the garrison of Kahun, to the favourable notice of the Honorable the Court of Directors.

By order of the Honorable the Governor in Council,

J. P. WILLOUGHBY,
Secretary to Government.

Poolajee, in company with Lieutenant Clarke, 2nd Grenadiers, on the 8th April 1840. On the morning of the 8th I reached that post, and found the following detachment assembled:—

300 bayonets, 5th Regiment, under Ensign Taylor.
2 12-pr. howitzers, Lieutenant D. Erskine.
50 Sind Irregular Horse, Lieutenant Clarke.
50 Puthan Horsemen.

With this detachment I was to convoy up 600 camels, being supplies for four months, and Lieutenant Clarke was to return with the empty camels, with an escort of 80 infantry and 50 horse, and bring up four months' more. I left Sukkur in a great hurry; but on my arrival at Poolajee was detained, in consequence of delays in the commissariat department, until the 2nd May. About the 15th April the weather became excessively hot, the thermometer ranging to 112° in my tent, in the middle of the day; the consequence was some sickness in the detachment: Lieutenant Erskine and Ensign Taylor were both attacked with fever, and one Subedar died from a *coup de soleil*.

April 20th.—At the requisition of the Political Agent, I dispatched Lieutenant Clarke and his horsemen in the direction of Shahpoor, there to be joined by 100 men of the Belooch levy, under Lieutenant Vardon, and from thence to proceed SE. in the direction of the hills, to try and surprise a party of Kulpore Bhoogtees. The Chuppao failed, in consequence of treachery in the guide. The sufferings of the party, from the heat, and want of water, when crossing the desert on their return, were beyond anything conceivable. The Belooch levy alone left 25 men behind, three of whom died.

27th.—Received an express from the Brigade Major, directing me, in consequence of Erskine's sickness, to order the guns back to Lehree, and proceed with the cavalry and infantry alone to Kahun. Dr. Glasse joined to-day.

29th.—This morning I received such strong reports of the intention of the Murrees to oppose us at the Pass of Nuffoosk, and again in the fort, that I immediately, on my own responsibility, made a requisition on Lehree for one of the guns to be sent back under a Native officer. Having been before over the hills, with the detachment under the late Major Billamore, I knew the almost utter impossibility, if opposed, of getting my convoy up safe without artillery.* Erskine having somewhat recovered from the fever, came himself with the gun.

May 2nd.—There being some dispute about finding the Puthans in provisions on their way up, and not myself thinking they would be

* This was a most fortunate circumstance in more instances than one: the gun became of double value; and I obtained not only one of the most pleasant and cheerful companions, during our lonely life in Kahun, but a most staunch and able assistant in my difficulties.

much use to me, having been present in November 1839, when they turned their backs on the enemy without drawing a sword, I at once ordered them back to their quarters; and the commissariat having reported the four months' supply being all ready, I this morning commenced my march into the hills, leaving behind 1 gun and 50 horse.

Marched 6 miles into the hills direct east; the last 4 miles very heavy for guns, being nothing but the bed of a dry river, with deep sand and pebbles. Encamped close to a delicious stream of water. Wood and grass in abundance; but the heat between the rocks was excessive. Ensign Taylor became too sick to proceed, and returned to head quarters, leaving only one officer (myself) in charge of three companies.

3rd.—Marched on 8 miles, starting at 2 A. M., and arriving at 7. Road very heavy; encamped in bed of river. Forage abundant; sulphur rocks close by. This was the hottest day I ever remember to have felt in India; the thermometer rising to 116°, with a hot wind like a furnace blowing.

4th.—Marched on 7 miles, not getting over more than a mile an hour, the road being so heavy. Water nearly the whole way, which was most acceptable, as the hot wind of yesterday continued during the whole night. Encamping ground as yesterday.

5th.—Marched on 6 miles. The wheels of the gun and waggon becoming ricketty from the stony state of the road, lightened them, by loading the ammunition boxes on camels. A sepoy died here from the effects of the sun. Encamping ground as yesterday.

6th.—Marched on 12 miles, 5 along the bed of the river, then over some table-land, to a drop-leap into the river again, down which the gun and carriages were obliged to be lowered by ropes. Strong reports reached us of the enemy getting ready to oppose us, and that they were busy getting in their crops. From this encamping ground there are two roads to Kahun, one round by Deyrah, distance 74 miles, and the other a short cut, over the mountains of Surtoff and Nuffoosk, distance only 20 miles, but very difficult for guns. Being left to my own judgment by the Brigadier, I decided on the short cut, having been over the same road before, with artillery, trusting to arrive in time to save some of the crops.

7th.—Left the bed of the river, and marched over a table-land, to the bottom of the Surtoff, distance 6 miles, which took us five hours, there being some very bad nullas on the road for guns. Encamped at the foot of the hill, where we found a beautiful stream of water, and abundance of forage. At 4 P. M. we commenced ascending the hill, the camels going up first: the distance is but a mile, but so steep, that the last camel did not reach the top until daylight, exactly twelve hours. The labour of getting up the gun and carriages was trying and

laborious in the extreme: some parts of the hills were almost perpendicular, and not one inch up would the bullocks pull. Here, while all hands were engaged in this labour, the Beloochees began first to show themselves in small bodies, annoying our flanks and rear.

8*th*.—Encamped on the top of the hill; but in consequence of there being neither water nor forage, obliged to send down all the animals to the bottom again, the men going down by divisions.

9*th*.—About 150 Beloochees assembled below the hill, evidently with the intention of attacking the watering party; in consequence of which I reinforced them with 100 men, under Clarke, when they immediately dispersed. Marched on over a fine table-land, to the foot of the Nuffoosk Pass, at 6 o'clock this evening: distance only 6 miles; but from the number of small nullas, and the overloaded state of the camels, we did not reach our ground until daylight.

10*th*.—Ascended the Nuffoosk Pass this morning with 100 men. No appearance of an enemy, although we found that they had built up breastworks across the road in three different places: removed them, and commenced getting up the gun, &c., which took us from 6 in the morning until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the bullocks being perfectly useless. This was an exceedingly hard day's work, the heat being excessive, and a great want of water,—in fact none at all for the cattle. Commenced passing up convoy at 4 P. M., the last camel not reaching the top until 3 A. M., although the distance was only a quarter of a mile. This was caused from the over-loaded state of the camels, and there only being one camel-man to six and seven. The camels fell down and gave in by dozens, and many bags were dropped: to obtain these last, some 60 Beloochees, who had been watching us all day, followed up the rear-guard, when a few shots were exchanged, and Clarke and myself took post with 12 men on some ridges overhanging the road. When the moon went down, the Beloochees made many attempts to get up the pass, but were easily kept at bay. A great deal of ammunition was wasted, without much effect, from the darkness of the night. This was the third night we had been under arms.

11*th*.—From the top of the hill we saw several fires in the Kahun plain. Commenced descending at daylight. Descent one mile in extent. Immediately the rear-guard left the top, it was crowded by about 60 Beloochees, who commenced a sharp fire, but at a long distance. Clarke and myself having remained in the rear, to try and bring on some of the bags dropped, we received some special marks of their favour. One Beloochee appeared to be a particularly good shot, for he managed to wound (slightly) Clarke and his servant; and a Havildar, standing close by, was only saved by the ball lodging in a small Mussuk he had slung on his shoulder. We were obliged to put up with this annoyance

for some time, being too anxious to get my convoy safe to Kahun, to think of returning up the hill to attack these people. The cattle were almost dying for want of water. By 2 P. M. we got guns and all safe to the bottom, only leaving two bags behind, and encamped for an hour in a strong nulla, clear of the hill. At 5 P. M. moved on Kahun, distant 5 miles, over a fine level plain, reaching it at 7, and finding it completely deserted, and the gates removed. Thus ended this arduous and trying march: the difficulties we encountered from the nature of the road, being entirely through beds of rivers, and over hills, and the want of water at the latter, were great indeed. The heat was excessive; and the bullocks refusing to put their shoulder to the collar, the labour of getting the guns over the hills fell entirely on the sepoys. The convoy often stretched for 2 miles, so to properly guard it on all sides was out of the question; but through the strenuous exertions of officers and men, all was got up safe, without loss or damage. Encamped under walls of fort for the night, all hands being completely done up. It was a delightful sight to see the camels and bullocks rushing to the river. I thought they never would have stopped drinking.

Kahun is a large, irregular, sex-angular walled town, 900 yards in circumference, with six bastions and one gateway. The walls are about 25 feet high, but so thin in some places, that they are seen through half-way down. There is no ditch, but a tank in front of the gateway, which fills after a heavy fall of rain. The houses inside are in very fair order; they principally belong to the Banyans; the Murrees (with the exception of the chief, his brother, and a few followers) inhabiting the plains outside, building mat huts in the summer, and retiring to the narrow passes on the hills in the cold weather. The plain on which Kahun is situated is about 15 miles long, and 6 broad. The air is very pure, and heat not nearly so great as it is in the plains.

12*th*.—Got detachment into fort during the day; found the inside of all the bastions destroyed; some still smoking. A sepoy, strolling out without his arms, was cut down within 500 yards of the fort, and his head severed from his body. Clarke, with 20 horsemen, had a long chase after the enemy, but could not touch them; however he sent in information of some grain still standing. Sent out party, and secured 50 camel-loads of wheat in stalk. The party also found the gates* of the fort in a field about two miles off.

13*th*.—During the night, the Beloochees commenced burning the wheat they could not carry away in the day-time. Sent out another party, and secured 50 more camel-loads. Commenced clearing out the

* These gates were afterwards invaluable to us, as also the wheat grass, when no forage was procurable for our horses.

large well, into which the Beloochees had thrown large logs of timber, and other kinds of lumber. An unfortunate dooleewalla was smothered in going down to fasten on a rope.

14*th*.—Busy all day in repairing bastions and putting up gate: in the former found layers of cowdung, covered over with earth; some still smoking, and water* seems to have no effect in putting out the fire.

16*th*.—The return convoy under Clarke started this morning at 2 A. M., *en route* to Poolajee. I had received instructions from the Brigadier to increase the number of infantry, if I thought it necessary. I did so with a Subedar's party, consisting of 5 Havildars and 80 rank and file. Clarke took them over the first hill, when, I suppose, finding no opposition at the difficult Pass of Nuffoosk, he sent them back, proceeding on himself with the original party, and 700 empty camels. About 12 o'clock a dooleewalla (a doolee and six had accompanied the Subedar's party,) came running in with the dreadful report that every man of the Subedar's party had been massacred! The dooleewalla was the only man who escaped, and his is the only account we have of this melancholy affair. He says that "the Subedar, on seeing the last of the camels over the hill, began to descend on this side; that when half-way down, they all of a sudden saw the top and bottom covered with Beloochees; that the Subedar then commenced a double march, and took up a position on some rising ground, forming square. The Beloochees, to the number of 2,000, then completely surrounded them, and after receiving two vollies, rushed boldly in on them, and began to slaughter them right and left. He saw the Subedar fighting to the last; he himself managed to escape by hiding in a nulla, where an old Beloochee found him, and after stripping him of what he had, let him go." The poor Subedar was one of the best Native officers in the regiment; he belonged to my light company, and was a great favourite of mine. We had been much together during our former campaign in these hills, and I felt his loss very much.

17*th*.—In great suspense about Clarke and his convoy. A spy came in from the enemy to-day, and was very inquisitive as to what number of men were left to defend the fort, &c. Put him close prisoner, with orders to shoot him on first approach of enemy. Busy all day strengthening post, the detachment being now reduced, in consequence of this unfortunate affair, to 140 bayonets and one gun, rather too few to man 900 yards of wall. Got the gun on bastion next to gateway.

18*th*.—About 60 horsemen passed coolly round the fort at a hand-gallop, waving their swords, and giving us much abuse; but taking very good care to keep well out of range of musket-shot, also from the

* One bastion took us ten days watering, before we succeeded.

gun side. Offered Rs. 150 to any man (follower) in the fort to take a Tapaul down to the plains, but none would venture.

19*th*, 20*th*.—All hands during these two days employed in repairing bastions, &c.

21*st*.—A Kosid came in this morning, with a note from Lieutenant Vardon, containing the most melancholy intelligence of poor Clarke's death, and the defeat of his party. It would appear that they had got as far as the bottom of the Surtoff mountain, 13 miles from Kahun, when the Murrees were seen assembled in large numbers at the top. Clarke, after placing his convoy, and part of his infantry, to the best advantage round his convoy, proceeded a little way up the hill, with about 30 infantry, to attack the most forward of them, and after fighting most gallantly for two hours, the ammunition being all gone, he, with the rest of the men who were with him, were all killed. Clarke himself killed two of the Beloochees with his own hand, and a third he seized round the waist, dashing him to the ground. He was then seen to stagger, as if wounded, and some of the Beloochees on another part of the hill, seeing a bugler, Clarke had sent down, bringing up ammunition, called out—"Now charge them, they are out of cartridges!" They did, and every man fell. The Beloochees then fell on the convoy. The horsemen made for Poolajee at speed, and the rest of our unfortunate sepoys were all massacred, save one Havildar and 11 privates. The number of Beloochees present appears from all accounts to have been 2,000. The loss they suffered is unknown, and ever will be; they only acknowledge to 25. They secured every camel, tent, &c.

Poor Clarke! Although having only known him for eight or nine months, still it was during scenes when months become years, and friendship becomes firm and lasting. We first met in November 1839, when he joined a field detachment (of which I was Staff Officer), proceeding against the Beloochees in these same hills. He at this time commanded 150 of the Sind Irregular Horse. From the day he joined, he was the life and soul of the party; and although a stranger to most of us, soon gained the esteem of all. Before he arrived, the country around had been subject to almost daily plundering. Enthusiastically fond of his profession, more particularly of his new command, the horse, he sought daily and hourly opportunities of distinguishing himself. He was, in the opinion of all, the *beau ideal* of an irregular horseman: brave and daring himself to a degree, he soon inspired his men with the same spirit; men who were before almost a perfect rabble became, through his bright example, most excellent soldiers in a short space of time; the men became fond of him to a degree, and with him at their head, seemed to think any odds against them of no moment. During our short campaign of four months, he was engaged in every skirmish we

had. A few days after he joined, being detached to a post 9 miles off, without information, and perfectly ignorant of the country around, he succeeded in surprising 60 Beloochees plundering some fields, about an hour before daylight. At the time he fell in with them, he had only 10 men up with him; but not hesitating a moment, he dashed in amongst them, killing seven, and taking three prisoners, the rest escaping through the thick jungle. Again, when the Bhoogtees attacked a party under Lieutenant Raitt in the hills, he distinguished himself greatly, charging through and through the enemy, and killing three with his own hand. On our march up to Kahun, he was of the utmost assistance to me, not only in commanding the rear-guard the whole way up, but in his strenuous exertions throughout. When wounded in the thigh at the last hill, his coolness and courage showed themselves conspicuously. Thinking the ball had gone through (he afterwards described the feeling to be just the same as he felt when wounded at Kurrachee, when the ball went right through his thigh), he said to me, "Dont say a word: it has gone right through me; but I do not want to show those fellows their shot has taken effect." To this day the Murrees speak of his bravery,* calling him the "Burra Bahadoor." He now lies buried halfway up the Surtoff. Thus did the 5th Regiment Bombay Native Infantry lose in one day, killed,

1 Subedar, 5 Havildars, and
1 Jemadar, 139 Rank and File.

22*nd*.—Dispatched Kosid on return to the plains; and knowing the anxiety that would be felt regarding not only our present but future fate, reported to Brigadier Stevenson my having still four months' supply of provisions left, and that I would do my utmost to hold the fort.

* I have been exceedingly sorry to see in one of the Bombay papers (*Courier*, June, 1840) an attack on poor Clarke for rashness in this melancholy affair. The writer could never have seen the country he had to pass through, or would have abstained from his remarks, which were both unkind and uncalled for, being given merely on the report of an ignorant Belooch guide. The real truth will perhaps never be known,—I mean his reasons for attacking the enemy; but in my humble opinion, for the following reasons I think he was right:—From the spot where the fight took place is 40 miles to the plains, through beds of rivers the whole way, with high rocks on each side. The camels (700) under his charge would stretch at least 2 miles through these ravines: with only 80 infantry and 50 horse, and one European officer (himself), how was it possible to guard them at all points, when followed up by some 2,000 Beloochees? No! I think it very likely that, seeing the hopelessness of getting his convoy safe to the plains, and having too much pride and daring to desert it, to save his party, he not unreasonably thought a check to the enemy at first starting would dishearten and deter them from following him up, and there was every chance of success. Until then the Beloochees had never crossed bayonets with the sepoys, and had the utmost dread of them; and from what I have since heard, I firmly believe that had not the bugler been killed bringing up the ammunition, and the sepoys with him had had any left, he would have beat them off, although 30 to 1. The Beloochees never attempted to charge him until they saw that all the ammunition was expended.

24*th*.—Thinking there was not much chance of another convoy coming up, took a strict account of the provisions, putting the men on half rations. All hands busy strengthening the fort. Divided detachment into four divisions, giving each a side to defend, and obliged to bring every* man on duty at night, for fear of a surprise. From this to the 27th busy clearing the ground of everything in the shape of tree or shrub, for 200 yards round the fort outside.

27*th*.—An express from Lieutenant Loch to-day, saying he was coming up with 200 horse, to see what had become of us, and to open the communication. Sent back the Kosid immediately to tell him on no account to attempt it, as, if defended, he could never force the Nuffoosk Pass, particularly with horse.

28*th*.—This morning, when the foraging party were out, some horsemen were seen prowling about the bed of the river. The "Assembly" was sounded, and some seven or eight horsemen, more bold than the rest, came within long musket-range, and a sepoy shot one: they then moved off at speed, Erskine getting a long shot, and killing another.

29*th*, 30*th*, 31*st*.—Busy cleaning out tank, which had become most offensive, and also commenced digging deep trenches along the foot of the walls inside, planting sharp-pointed stakes in them; pulled down all houses touching the walls, to prevent the enemy landing, should they succeed in mounting the walls in overwhelming numbers. This gave them a drop-leap of 25 feet on to a body of stakes.

June 3*rd*.—Heard that the old Chief Dodah had tried all in his power to prevent his tribe attacking Clarke's party, and that on their leaving for that purpose, exclaimed "Ah! there you go, selling your country for 500 camels!" Beloochees on the move in every direction, but keeping at a respectful distance; prevented, in consequence, sending out foraging parties.†

4*th*.—Commenced digging a fresh well, the other wells containing very bad water, causing bad ulcers on the men: but finding water at all in the fort was a most fortunate circumstance, as any party sent down to the river would certainly have been cut up. Received an express from the Political Agent, intimating that I must not expect reinforcements from Sukkur, but that a request had been made to Captain Bean at Quetah to obtain, if possible, the assistance of a tribe called Kahars, inhabiting the hills in the Bolan, and deadly enemies of the Murrees.

* This fatiguing duty continued until the day we left the fort (September 28), and was submitted to by the sepoys with the utmost cheerfulness.

† From this day I was obliged to keep all the cattle inside, allowing the camel-men and others to pick up and bring in what forage they could, which was but little. The river, which was only a mile off, was almost dry, and the banks were high enough to conceal 1,000 horsemen; it therefore became necessary to use the utmost caution, not being able to afford the loss of a single man.

7th, 8th, 9th.—Nothing new stirring; working parties employed strengthening an old inner fort, which, in case of our being hard pushed, will contain all the supplies, and two wells out of the three. Banyans employed in filling all the empty grain-bags with sand. Lascars busy cutting good stout clubs for all the followers. Commenced bringing the latter on duty at night, as look-out men, a fourth part of them being attached to each division. The enemy getting more harassing daily, firing at every man who appears 200 yards from the walls. Furnished a new bastion on opposite fort for gun. We can now ply it from both sides, having a good road made from one bastion to the other.

15th.—Kosids came in this morning, bringing intelligence of the Murrees and Bhoogtees having agreed to stand by each other, and attack the fort on the approaching dark nights with their whole force. Got the front of gateway well palisaded. From this to the 25th nothing new: all working at the defences most cheerfully, and every man seeming to think that the safety of the whole depends on his individual bravery. Treat sepoys kindly, and I do not think they will ever fail at the push: nearly fourteen years of uninterrupted regimental duty I think entitles me to give an opinion on this point, and that before formed is now fully confirmed.

25th.—An old acquaintance of mine, Shere Beg Bhoogtee, who had acted as guide to us through these hills last year, paid me a visit. I had had the means of showing him some kindness. During the campaign he had been taken prisoner, and plundered of many head of cattle; and I, having obtained his release, and clothed him, he has followed me like a shadow ever since.

29th.—No appearance of any night attack, as reported, but this morning about 150 Beloochees came sweeping round the fort. Unfortunately twenty bullock-drivers were out foraging, more than a mile across the river, contrary to my most positive orders. The consequence was, they were cut off, and surrounded by the enemy, who commenced a regular slaughter. Fortunately Erskine managed to screw round the gun, and I threw out about forty men in the direction, well flanked to two bastions. By these means we managed to save ten out of the twenty. A shell from the gun sent the enemy to the rightabout, and the party served as a rallying point for those who could manage to escape. One of the latter, who managed to conceal himself under a bush, heard our poor fellows beg for mercy, but Kureem Khan, the chief, who was superintending the slaughter, kept crying out "Maro! maro!" This all took place in the bed of the river, and was not visible from the fort. He also says he saw the shrapnell burst right in amongst them, knocking over three, and dispersing the rest. I had an opportunity this morning of promoting two sepoys for bravery. They were out cutting forage near the fort,

with some eight or ten camel-men, when about twenty Beloochees rode at speed at them. Instead of running for it, the two sepoys coolly stood still, and fired into their faces, wounding one of them. This was quite sufficient for the Beloochees, who turned and fled. Had the sepoys retreated under the walls, the camel-men must have been cut up. This morning was full of adventures: nearly lost the only sheep we had left; the Beloochees got between them and the fort, but were too eager to cut up the camel-men to see them. They would have been a sad loss to us, for not another could we get.

30*th*.—Let loose the old spy to-day, tired of keeping him any longer; besides, we have neither guards nor food to waste on such kind of people. He is quite welcome to report to the enemy all he has seen, which is but little.

July 3*rd*.—Shere Beg again made his appearance agreeably to promise, bringing with him forty-five sheep and goats; and a most welcome supply, as we were almost reduced to the last goat. The sepoys, not having tasted any meat for two months, highly enjoyed the treat. He tells us that it is the Murrees' intention to attack the fort on the night of the 6th instant, when the moon goes down, with fifty scaling ladders, their Syud having persuaded them that our leaden bullets will not kill; in proof of which he had a bullock placed 100 yards off, and had 300 bullets (taken from Clarke's party) fired at it, without effect! This story frightened my Naib (a Belooch), so that he came to me with a most serious face, and begged that I would procure iron bullets for the two first rounds, and that then the Beloochees would run away! These Murrees seem to have a great name amongst the other tribes.

7*th*.—An express arrived from Captain Bean at Quetah, offering me assistance, and regretting the position in which I was placed: the same post also brought a letter from the Political Agent at Shikarpoor, to say it was intended to act on the defensive until the season opens. Fifty Beloochee horsemen kicked up a great dust this afternoon. Erskine emptied three of their saddles. They had been snugly hid all day in the river, ready to cut off any parties who ventured outside.

9*th*.—Getting used to the Beloochees' visits; indeed we are glad of anything in the shape of excitement, to change the monotonous life we are leading. Unfortunately we cannot afford to expend much gun ammunition; we can therefore only take a shot occasionally, which is always a source of great amusement to all in the fort, particularly when it falls in amongst the Beloochees, who retaliate by heaping abuse on us as they scamper off. Shere Beg came again to-day, bringing a few chillies and sugar, for which he obtained enormous prices. No doubt he is a spy in a small way; but being the only face we see, save the Kosids, who are decided spies, he is too useful to quarrel with. He

puts me in mind of the old beggar Edie in the "Antiquary": whenever he makes his appearance, the word is passed from bastion to bastion, and all the fort turns out to meet him, being delighted to see him, not only for old acquaintance, but for the few trifles he always brings. The camels are now beginning to break up, for want of grain and forage; ditto gun-bullocks: shot five of the former this evening, in consequence of their being in a dying state.

11*th*.—About 200 head of cattle going across the plain, about a mile and a half off: most tempting, but very suspicious; but the first we have seen. It is no doubt a trap: no doubt plenty of horsemen are in the bed of the river, ready to cut in between the party and the fort, if we sallied out. Sepoys mad to go after them: perhaps they will come a little nearer by and by, and give us an opportunity.

13*th*.—An express arrived from Lehree, with intelligence, that instead of the Kujjuks and Kahars coming to our assistance, the former had joined the Murrees against us, and that the latter had attacked Captain Bean himself at Quetah on the 22nd ultimo. They excuse themselves from attacking the Murrees until September, on account of the great heat! It is fortunate that we did not depend on these allies.

14*th*.—Men suffering very severely from ulcers; upwards of ninety of all ranks laid up with them; and several not able to put on their belts in consequence: still they all manage to go to their posts at night, although several cannot stand sentry. The dooleewalas, camel-men, and bullock-drivers now became useful, having gone through a kind of drill.

18*th*.—A tremendous storm of wind and rain, lasting the whole night: thought the old fort was going to be washed away. At day-break got all hands to work to drain the fort, the water having lodged in every direction, and threatening to undermine the walls. Tank filled, and country around completely flooded.

25*th*.—At 12 o'clock to-day about 200 horsemen came galloping round the fort at a quick pace: thought at first they were going to assault the fort. After a shell or two they retreated. They have now become very cunning, and instead of appearing in a large body, as formerly, they now sail along "Indian file," like a flock of wild ducks, and it is very seldom we can get a shot at them. In the afternoon they were seen cultivating the fields in all directions; quite an enlivening scene.

26*th*.—A horse was this morning found dead where Erskine's shell fell yesterday, so it is to be hoped there was some mischief done amongst the enemy. At the time there was so much dust that we could not see any distance. The Beloochees have now completely surrounded the fort; little parties, like pickets, appearing seated around in every direction. This looks bad for our communication. As yet the Tapaul

has arrived pretty regularly once in eight days, and has been a source of great amusement to us. Much fever is now prevailing amongst us: myself attacked, and Glasse is also very sick. The sepoys and followers are coming into hospital as many as six and seven a day. Beloochees advaneing closer and closer every day: their matchlocks I really believe carry twice as far as our muskets. From this to the 6th August nothing new: the same daily routine of duty, with generally a "fall" in every twelve hours. Laid up with fever, and prevented writing.*

August 6th.—The men still continue very sickly; 33 in hospital with fever. Glasse is very unwell, and unable to leave his bed. Out of the most useful medicines: hot water the order of the day,—found to be a very good substitute, being of a very purgative nature. Made a kind of truce with a Murree Chief called Hybut Khan, who acknowledged himself the owner of most of the flocks grazing around, also of some of the land now being cultivated. He told us to look out for Lall Khan, and some 150 of his people, a day or two hence.

7th.—Beloochees on the *qui vive;* fired two shots at us, as we were taking our walk in front of the gateway. Hybut Khan wants Rs. 40 to take a Tapaul to Lehree. He is evidently a doubtful character, and thinks to take us in: refused to sell us one sheep.

8th.—Had a slight skirmish this morning with Beloochees. When taking our walk, some Beloochees appeared about the nulla, evidently up to mischief. Enticed them out with a few men, when fifty or sixty of them immediately sprung up, and a little file-firing commenced. Withdrew party to allow Erskine to have a shot, which fell into the midst of them, whether with any damage or not we know not, the jungle being so thick: however, they immediately bolted at their best pace.†

9th.—Beloochees up to some mischief at the Nuffoosk Pass, going up there in small bodies of twenty and thirty;—destroying the road up I suspect.

10th.—For the last four or five days the flocks had been coming closer and closer to the walls, eating up what little grass there was left. I had warned Hybut Khan of this three or four times, and had also offered to purchase 100 sheep at his own price; but he declared I should not have one. Erskine and myself had finished the last but one of those we procured from old Shere Beg. We have both excellent appetites,

* We did not see another Kosid until the 15th August, some twenty days, during which time we were perfectly ignorant of everything going on in the plains, and we had no means of sending a Tapaul, as not a man could be persuaded to leave the fort.

† I have since heard from one who was then in the Murree Hills, that this was an intended attack on the fort, and that Lall Khan with 500 men was close by at the time, intending to rush into the gateway after us, as we retreated in; but that hearing the gun, which the Syud had agreed to render harmless for that morning, and seeing the effect of the two shells thrown by Erskine (fifteen Murrees were killed and wounded by them), they gave up the idea.

although shut up in a fort. To-day, two large flocks of sheep and goats came most temptingly near, and the sepoys earnestly entreated for some fresh meat. Watching our opportunity (no Beloochees being then in sight), we slipped out about 30 sepoys, flanking them with two bastions filled with men, and Erskine got the gun round to bear in the direction. There were only three Beloochees just then in charge. They immediately ran off for their lives, and the goats, by some instinct, and to our great annoyance, followed them at speed, like dogs. Two horsemen then came up, looking very fierce, but soon rode off on getting a shot. To describe the delight of all on getting this flock inside the fort is impossible: there was a perfect uproar. On counting our plunder, we found we had secured 300 sheep* and 57 goats. Most of the latter were milk goats, so that the highest castes shared the enjoyment. We immediately made a division of the whole, charging 4 annas on the head of each for the benefit of the widows of those who fell on the 16th May. That evening the fort became one large cook-shop.

11*th*.—Hybut Khan came to-day, to try and recover his sheep. Told us Nuseer Khan had driven all our detachments into Sukkur; also brought a note from Dodah, the chief, desiring us to leave his fort forthwith, and that he and his army would escort us down to the plains! When Hybut found he could not get back his sheep, being told that most of them were already killed, he flew into a great rage, and declared he would come and attack the fort; for which threat I told the sentry to give him a shot, when he quickly departed.

15*th*.—A Kosid, to our great joy, came in this morning, after a lapse of twenty days. Could have hugged the old rascal, although I knew him to be the greatest of spies. A letter arrived by him from the Political Agent, saying it was contemplated to try and throw in supplies, through the agency of Jeyt Sing† and Meer Hussain, to save moving the troops up with a convoy.

16*th*.—Another Kosid this morning. The system mentioned yesterday of throwing in supplies discarded, being found impracticable; and the welcome, most welcome intelligence of the following detachment leaving Sukkur for our relief:—Detachment of H. M.'s 40th regiment; 1st Grenadiers; 2nd Grenadiers; 4 guns; and 200 horse, under the

* These sheep were a great addition to the half rations; the latter alone being but poor food for men working all day, and on guard every night.

† Jeyt Sing is a Shikarpoor merchant, immensely rich, and has great sway with all the Beloochees around. Our loss is always his certain gain: he buys back our stolen camels for Rs. 15 or Rs. 20, and sells them again to our commissariat for Rs. 50 or Rs. 60!—a positive fact. Meer Hussain, I am almost positive, was the cause of poor Clarke being attacked; and it is fully proved it was he who led Major Clibborn's watering party into the ambuscade. I hope he will yet meet with the punishment he deserves.

command of Major Clibborn, 1st Grenadiers. Received intimation that it was arranged between Hybut Khan and the rest of the chiefs, that the former, in making a truce, should encourage us to go out foraging, and then cut us up.

17*th*.—Two Beloochees disarmed a sepoy most beautifully to-day. He was sitting down, and had placed his musket and pouch-box a little on one side. The two Beloochees dashed up at speed, dismounted, picked up the musket, &c. before the sepoy could jump up, and went off, waving their booty in triumph. A sharp touch of an earthquake to-day.

18*th*.—A little skirmish with the Beloochees outside; tried to draw them on towards the fort, but failed.

20*th*.—Six Beloochees made a dash around the fort on a plundering expedition; captured three Banyan's donkeys. The same animals have now been stolen and re-captured three different times.

21*st*.—Received a message from Dodah's brother, to take care of ourselves, as the whole body of them would assemble ten* days hence, and put us all to the sword.

[illegible] Another Kosid arrived to-day, bringing the welcome intelligence of the convoy being actually on their march up, with a reduced detachment,—having left behind detachment 40th,—all [illegible] the light [illegible] 2nd Grenadiers, and one gun. To describe the joy of all [illegible] on my immediately giving out this news, is impossible. Those [illegible] have suffered a four months' imprisonment, with the addition [illegible] lying down to sleep without a chance of having to turn out for [illegible] can conceive it.

[illegible]—Received the following amusing information from Hybut Khan:—"About two months ago, their Syud, in whom they place great [illegible], having agreed to render our gun and muskets harmless, the whole [illegible] the tribes under Lall Khan† and Duleel Khan, assembled to attack [illegible] the mean time, they got information from one of our Kosid spies, that we were at work from morning till night, and had built up two extra forts inside, and had also dug a well under the gateway. Upon hearing this, the Syud had a most convenient dream, declared he would have nothing to do with the business, and strongly recommended no attack. On this the tribe immediately broke up." This agrees with the report mentioned on the 3rd July. Hybut also told us that the

* This turned out but too true, so far as regards the assemblage of the whole tribe, to a day; as on the 31st, exactly ten days, the fight of Nuffoosk took place.

† An amusing anecdote is told of this chief. When assisting in getting one of the guns left by Major Clibborn up the pass, it slipped back, and smashed one of his limbs, which caused his death a fortnight after. When dying, he called some of his people around him, and warned them never to go near our guns, as, "sleeping or waking, they would always be their destruction." This chief was a grand limb lopped off the Murree tribe, being their greatest leader. He lost his only son in Clarke's fight.

Murrees are now* assembled to the number of 3,000, behind the hill NE. of the fort; and that they intend to have three fights with the coming convoy, for the honour of their land—1*st*, at the Pass of Nuffoosk; 2*nd*, where they now are; and then, if beaten by us in both, to fall back on Meer Hajee's fort of Barkoe, where they will fight to the last.

29*th*.—Captured two bullocks, which we found a great treat, not having tasted beef for a long time. The convoy can now be only two marches off; cheering news!

31*st*.—A day of great and almost overpowering excitement. It commenced about 5 o'clock last evening, when the plains and hills became alive with Beloochees, and at dark, large signal fires on the tops of all the hills. At daybreak, large parties of horse and foot were seen hurrying across the plain to the Nuffoosk Pass, on the opposite side of which we soon learnt of the arrival of our convoy, from the report of one of their guns, a signal agreed upon between us. About sunrise, we saw collected on the very top of the pass about 2,000 Beloochees, and others prowling about in all directions. The distance, as the crow flies, from the fort to the pass, is about four miles,—in fact, we were completely behind the scenes, and saw all that the Beloochees were at; and fully expecting to see our comrades crown the top every hour, we were highly amused and excited.—2 P. M. No sight of convoy coming over pass: they must be repairing the road up.—3 P. M.†. Saw the shrapnell flying over the hill, and bursting in the midst of the enemy, with the most beautiful effect.—5 P. M. Still no sight of convoy. Beloochees still crossing the plains towards the seat of action. Erskine scattered a small body of them with a shell.—8 P. M. Heavy firing of guns and musketry for ten minutes, when all was silent for the rest of the night. I should be very sorry to pass many days of my life like this,—I would ten thousand times sooner have been in the thick of it: the excitement and suspense was beyond anything I ever felt before. Knowing the difficulty of the pass, and not seeing our people crown the top, I felt certain there must be much bloodshed going on.‡

* Although I did not place much credit on this information, thinking it a bit of bravado, yet I much wished to send it to Clibborn, but had no means.

† Between 2 and 3 o'clock the fight of Nuffoosk commenced.

‡ I have since heard some surprise has been expressed that we could *see* and *hear* Clibborn's shells, and not rush out to his succour! Had we done so, the labour and perseverance of four months would have been thrown away in an hour, and the Beloochees would have gained the *very* object they had been trying for without effect since the day we entered the fort, namely to entice us out. But the thing was out of the question: between us and the pass were four miles of plain; a quarter of a mile one of the most dangerous ravines I ever passed through; a mountain a mile in extent; and last, though not least, 2,000 Beloochees! I might, perhaps, have mustered 100 bayonets, but must have left some forty sick behind; but the best reason of all is, that it was not until the 7th September (eight days afterwards), when we first saw

Sept. 1*st.*—Not a single Beloochee to be seen on the top of the hill at daylight; but several passing across the plain in that direction. No sight or sound of convoy all day! Sadly perplexed to know what has become of them; conclude that, finding the pass too strongly defended yesterday, they had fallen back to go round by the Deyrah road, as I first recommended.

2*nd.*—Beloochees in all directions, and busy as bees. Another day of suspense and excitement. After 11 o'clock, they pitched one of our sepoy's tents about half-way up the hill, up and down which batches of loaded and unloaded camels are going. Suppose the convoy must have dropped some of their baggage and stores in the hurry of their departure. About 12 o'clock much firing commenced, and continued with intervals until 2 P. M. From the sound, it would appear the convoy had fallen back in the direction of the Deyrah road, some 20 miles; cannot now expect to see them for the next six or seven days. Tantalizing, when they were so close. Not a drop of spirits, a cheroot, or a cup of tea left, nor have we, indeed, tasted any for some time. Sepoys very weak, from short rations; only six bags of flour left,—a bad look-out. Cannot help thinking of our having got our convoy over so snugly in May, when we had only a third of the number of the present convoy.

3*rd.*—Still in suspense; no communication from outside. All on the look-out particularly at night. Upwards of 100 loaded camels going across the plain, being some distance off; whether these are horses or camels cannot be clearly ascertained without a glass. Perhaps the people in the fort that they were the former, although the sepoys made the shrewd remark, that they never saw horsemen look so large as to go along one after the other so regularly. About 20 horsemen, with a gulf of ten spare horses, came down from the hill to water near the fort; looks as if the owners of the latter had been killed. Two bodies [illegible] across the plain *on Charpoys*, with a kind of funeral [illegible] following them; suppose they are two chiefs. At 3 P. M. saw a [illegible] body of Beloochees pitching a sort of camp within a mile and a half [illegible] the mistaking our sepoys' tents, also one officer's tent,—five [illegible] the former and one of the latter, exactly the number they took from Clarke's party; trust they are those only, but appearances are very suspicious. Just as it was getting dark, saw the whole body assembled in one dense mass, in front of their tents: warned all hands to keep a bright look-out when the moon goes down.

4*th.*—To-day some horsemen came and informed us "that they had cut up our convoy, taken the guns, and all the stores and supplies, and

the guns in the enemy's hands, that we had the slightest idea of the disaster that had taken place. Up to that date we anxiously looked out to see the convoy coming round the Deyrah road, thinking they had found the Nuffoosk Pass too difficult.

had killed all the Saheb-log except three, who were prisoners in their camp"; in proof of which assertion they offered to show the guns to any person I chose to send, who could also bring a chit from the prisoners. This offer, however, I refused, firmly believing the report to be altogether untrue, and made with a view of getting hold of one of my people for information. They also said, that if I would leave the fort and go to the plains, they would not molest me. We had a very heavy fall of rain about 4 P. M. More tents springing up in the Murree camp; about 300 Beloochees seated on a rising ground on one flank: great amusement in watching their movements; having a good glass, we could almost see into their very tents.

5th.—A person came under the fort calling out, wishing to give us the news: had had already quite enough of these people's stories, so sent a bullet or two after him, to hurry his departure. All in the fort sadly perplexed to know what to think of affairs. Beloochees on the move in every direction: 100 passed this morning in the Deyrah direction, the road from which we are expecting the convoy. The Beloochees do not seem in good spirits, not like men who have destroyed a large convoy. There has evidently been mischief somewhere. A storm occurred about 4 o'clock, which, to our great delight, blew down all the Beloochee tents; they however soon had them up again.

6th.—No grain left for camels or bullocks, and little or no forage,—they must take their chance, poor creatures. Nothing now left but a few bags of rice, and three or four of flour: ten bags of the latter, which were thrown aside as being half sand, now came into use, and were greedily devoured by the sepoys. A camel-man shot himself, being detected in a theft.

7th.—Half expected, on taking a look at the Beloochee camp this morning, to find them all decamped; but a sad reverse met our sight: the three guns belonging to the convoy staring us in the face! They were placed on a piece of rising ground on one flank of their camp, their muzzles pointed towards the fort. What can have become of Major Clibborn and his convoy?—many officers and men must have lost their lives before they gave up the guns! There is no doubt now that something most disastrous must have occurred, and we must prepare for the worst. Sepoys keep up their spirits amazingly well; not the slightest sign of flinching, although they seem to be aware that their situation is rather perilous: luckily they cannot see the guns with the naked eye, on account of the jungle. There are chances in our favour yet, and that the guns will not be of much use to them—1*st*, they may be spiked; 2*nd*, they may have no ammunition; and *lastly*, they know not how to load or fire them: luckily they are howitzers instead of field-pieces.

—10 A. M. All the Beloochees are assembled round the guns, and peeping into their muzzles,—quite playthings to them.

8*th*.—Small parties of horsemen prowling all round the fort,—watching us, I suppose, knowing we must soon take to flight for want of provisions: they need not be in such a hurry, as we have still some rice and gun-bullocks left.

9*th*.—Loaded camels still going across the plain, two Beloochees mounted on artillery horses: no mistaking them, from their size, and their having blinkers on, which they were determined should not escape our sight, as they galloped up and down in front of the fort for an hour.

10*th*.—Our old friend Shere Beg came in this morning, but in such a suspicious manner, that I put him prisoner. He tells us the Beloochees' report of having destroyed our convoy is all true: he mentions poor Raitt and Moore as being two of the killed.

11*th*.—Made some horsemen, who were grazing their horses rather too close, scamper off, and received much abuse from them for my pains. The Murrees acknowledge to their having had 80 killed and 80 wounded in the fight. Our old acquaintance Hybut Khan and his son are, it is stated, both killed; also Kureem Khan, who supe[illegible] the slaughter on the 29th June.

[illegible]

we were all well in the fort. This is the first opportunity that has offered of sending anything in the shape of a letter since the 26th ultimo. Captured two camels this morning with the C. D. mark fresh upon them,—no doubt from whence they came! Feel the want of a drop of spirits or a cup of tea most sadly, when keeping watch at night: water (and such water too!) is but cold comfort.

17*th*.—About 12 o'clock last night a Kosid arrived with an official letter from the Brigade Major at Sukkur,* informing us of the full parti-

* Copy of which is annexed.

culars of Major Clibborn's disaster, and leaving me to my own resources, it being found impossible to send me any further relief. Well, this decides the matter at once. The number of sick, and the weakly state of the rest of the detachment, give little chance of escape by a night march, and I do not suppose the Murrees will agree to any terms I may offer. Put the best face we could on the matter, and on making a calculation, find we can last out until the 15th October on quarter rations, and the gun-bullocks. Decided on holding out, unless we get honorable terms. Perhaps something will turn up in the mean time; and if it come to the worst, we must try and make our way down to the plains. Replied to the Brigade Major in comformity with decision, not allowing the Kosid to enter into the fort, knowing he would not have the most cheering news for the people inside. Sepoys in excellent spirits, although well aware that there is some mischief in the wind. From this to the 22nd instant nothing extraordinary occurred.

23*rd*.—Shere Beg returned from the plains to-day, but without any reply to my letter, having had it taken from him. He tells me that "Dodah sent twice to him, immediately after the fight, knowing he had access to the fort, to say he should be happy to make any terms with [redacted] as I would leave his fort; and that he had sent two people to me, but that I would not listen to them, firing upon, and driving them away." The Belooch who came on the 5th, and whom we treated so roughly, must have been one of these peaceable messengers! Well, this seems an opening for obtaining favourable terms, particularly as old Dodah has made the first advances; and knowing the impossibility of holding the post much longer for want of supplies, I opened a communication with the chief, Shere Beg and my Naib being the bearers of the following proposal:—

"Dodah Murree,—I'll give you back your fort on [redacted] additions; viz. that [redacted] give me personal security for my safe arrival in the plains: if [redacted] will remain here two months longer, having provisions for that

t.—The deputation returned, informing me, that on receiving the [redacted] after [redacted] munication, the whole of the chiefs had assembled together, and [redacted] a solemn oath on the Koran, that if I would leave the fort in three [redacted] days, they would protect me from all opposition down to the plains; [redacted] ending by saying that "whatever my wishes were, should be their law [redacted]." Two hours afterwards a Kosid brought a letter from Dodah himself, [redacted] in answer to mine, containing an agreement, on oath, to my proposal: [redacted] he said he would send his nephew to pay his respects to me, and to see th[redacted] agreement conformed to by all his people.

25*th*.—Replied to Dodah's letter, to the [redacted] effect that I would give up

the fort three days hence, on the above terms. Surprised at their letting us off so easily, namely simply to return to the plains, without let or hindrance from his people, on condition of giving up the fort, which Dodah must well know we cannot hold a month longer: plenty of room to suspect treachery, but we must run the risk. This evening Guamaul Khan came near the fort, and sent a message to say that he feared to venture inside; but that if I would meet him outside, without my troops, he would ratify the agreement. Wishing at once to see whether it was to be "treachery or no treachery," I agreed, and, with Erskine and four Native officers, met him about a mile from the fort. I never saw a man in such a fright in my life. Although he had 30 horsemen, armed to the teeth, and there were only six of us, he retreated twice before he would venture near us! He thought, from our coming alone, there must be treachery; that some men were hidden somewhere: even after we had met, he had his horse all ready close by for a start. Down we all sat in a circle,—a wild scene; his followers appeared to be exceedingly well armed, and all fine stout-built men. After compliments, &c. the nephew began to talk very reasonably. He expressed a hope that

confidence we placed in their wo[illegible]y meeting them in the w[illegible] we did, seemed to please them much, an[illegible]n having been deadly e[illegible] for five long months [illegible]me in one [illegible]best of friends: n[illegible] their joy was just[illegible] becau[illegible]f the [illegible]'s [illegible] our freedom [illegible]t as great in getting rid of us, as [illegible]s in obtaining

26*th*. [illegible] 27*th*.—Most delightfully employed in preparing for a start: only ten public camels left, and those as thin as rats; none here procurable: the number of sick amounts to forty, and these require twenty! Then there are the rations; ammunition, both gun and musket; water, and tents. In fact, found I could not move without sacrificing *all* private property, and half the ammunition and tents; obliged to call on officers and men to give up what private camels they had: this was

most willingly agreed to; and all kit, even to our bedding, was left behind. The gun ammunition I was obliged to take, as I rather expected opposition from the Bhoogtees, through whose country we had 40 miles to go. At first we were almost afraid we should not be able to bring down the gun, from the wretched state of the bullocks, and weakness of the men: however, we determined to try, and leaving the waggon and forge-cart behind, picked out thirty of the best for the gun alone. The sepoys, thinking we were going to leave it behind, came and begged me not, as they themselves would drag it down, and defend it with their lives! When Erskine was burning the forge-cart and waggon, the Beloochees outside thought we were setting fire to the fort, and sent to beg us to spare it.

28*th*.—Turned our backs on Kahun this morning at 2 o'clock. Much trouble in getting off, in consequence of the number of sick: obliged to tie some of the poor fellows on the camels. Commenced the ascent of the big hill at 6 A. M., and after immense fatigue and labour, got the gun to the top by 2 P. M. The sepoys were regularly overpowered with fatigue half-way up. The call for water now was dreadful, all that I had brought with me in the Mussuks being expended. About 9 o'clock about 300 Beloochees had assembled in our front, rear, and right flank, perched on the top of the hills; they seemed highly amused at our getting the gun up; but when they saw the sepoys completely done up with thirst and fatigue, they called out, "Ah! you will never get the gun down to the plains,—you had better give it to old Dodah!" I offered them money to show us some water: they said they would for Rs. 1,000! After some talk they agreed to show us some for Rs. 100, [illegible]h was immediately given them: [illegible] just enough to give [illegible] man a handful or so, and then they [illegible]nd got the gun up. I [illegible]y thought at one time we must h[illegible] it behind. At the very [illegible]op of the pass were about 50 of Hybut [illegible]'s followers: these men swore we should not go any further, until we [illegible]d paid for the flock of shee[illegible] we captured on the 13th [illegible]ust. However, when it came to the [illegible]and seeing the gun too [illegible] to be pleasant, they thought better [illegible]nd begged a few rupees [illegible] Hybut Khan's family, who, they said, were very poo[illegible] It was as much as I could do to restrain myself from giving this party a round of grape. It is well I did not, perhaps, as it would most likely have embroiled me with the rest of the tribe, and my detachment was not in much of a fighting condition! It was now 4 P. M., and we had still to descend the Nuffoosk Pass to some water, which our Murree guide reported was in abundance three miles from the bottom, in consequence of much rain having fallen. Commenced descending; when a spectacle, the most horrible to be conceived, met our sight: the bodies of all our poor fellows, both officers and men, who

fell on the 31st August, lying unburied,* with all their clothes on! having been merely dragged off the road. Raitt's body was the first, being almost on the top of the pass. Through this dreadful scene we had to lower our gun down the hill, inch by inch. I would have given worlds to have buried the poor fellows, but this was out of the question: we had then been fourteen hours under arms, and had still to seek for water; besides which, we had no intrenching tools. The bodies were lying in heaps, which shows what a bitter fight it must have been. The Murrees spoke highly of poor Raitt's bravery, in being at the head of all: they had buried all their own dead at the bottom of the hill; but although I offered them any money they choose to ask, they refused to bury ours, in consequence of the state of decomposition they were then in. After much labour, got the gun down the hill, and proceeded on along the table-land until 7 o'clock, when we found water in abundance in a deep watercourse, on the bank of which we bivouacked for the night. Although the men had had no food all day, they all (save the pickets) immediately fell asleep, without tasting a bit: they had been nineteen hours under arms, the first bugle having been sounded at 12 last night. Had this water been found when the fight of the 31st took place, what a different tale would have been told!

29*th*.—Marched this morning to the top of the Surtoff mountain, four miles. Descended hill, lowering gun down with drag-ropes. Reached bottom at 10 o'clock. On examining one of the gun-wheels, found the ironwork of the axletree box split in several places. To all appearance it seemed impossible to repair it, or that the gun could travel any further; but Erskine, by great exertions, got it bound up, and on we went again, starting at 2 P. M., but did not reach our ground until 10, having lost the road, and got jammed in between ravines. I should have wished to have made only one march a day, in consequence of the weak state of the men; but there was no help for it,—on we must go, night as well as day, having only two days' provisions with us. Here no water was procurable. Luckily the sepoys were so done up that they soon fell asleep, and forgot all about their thirst. Received an express from the Assistant Political Agent, warning us to expect opposition from the Bhoogtees, whose country we are now in. Not so much of a fighting train, half the men being on camels; but with the gun, I think we have not much to fear from them.

30*th*.—Started at 5 A. M., and arrived at 10 at a beautiful stream of water. On this march I was obliged to throw away all the ammuni-

* Since writing this, I am happy to say I have succeeded in getting all our poor comrades buried: their remains now lie in one large grave, in the ground on which they fought so gallantly. Mundoo Khan, the nephew of Beejar Khan, accomplished this desired object for me, in which he was assisted by some of the Murrees engaged in the fight.

tion, save a few rounds of grape; otherwise I must have left eight or ten sick behind. Men and camels regularly gave in during this march, and how we got all safe up, I hardly know. Remaining with the rear-guard, I cheered them on as well as I could. One poor fellow died on the camel's back. Our Murree guide, who had behaved as yet very well, did an act of extraordinary kindness for a Beloochee. Hearing that one of our people was left behind for want of carriage to bring him on, he went back of his own accord, mounted him on his horse, and brought him into camp, walking himself by his side. From this ground, sent off an express by our Murree guide (the only man who would venture) to Poolajee, for some spare camels and gun-bullocks, and we proceeded on other 8 miles at 4 A. M., getting to some water about 10 o'clock.

October 1*st*.—Started at 3 A. M., and marched on 8 miles. Soon after our arrival, to our great delight, up came our Murree guide, with some Sinde horse, spare camels, and gun-bullocks. Proceeded on to Poolajee at 4 P. M., reaching that post at 12, distance 14 miles. On coming out of the hills into the plain, fired off our howitzer, to give notice to our friends at Lehree, the head quarters of the 5th Regiment, of our safe arrival.

Thus, after a detention of five months in the fort of Kahun, was our escape from that position, and the Murree Hills, accomplished. The hardships and privations, circumstances forced on us, were most cheerfully borne with by all. After the attack on Major Clibborn's party, it often appeared impossible to expect a release, yet not a murmur was heard. On no one occasion had I to find fault with the men; and the alacrity and cheerfulness with which they performed the exceedingly onerous duties which I was forced to exact, reflects, in my humble opinion, great credit on the Kalee (5th) Pultun, and small detachment of Artillery. Of the constant aid afforded me on every occasion by Lieut. Erskine and Dr. Glasse I note nothing; it can never cease to be fresh in my memory; and their rank is too near my own to admit of my saying all I could wish, or they deserve, even in this my Private Journal.

Letter from the Brigade Major *at Sukkur to* Captain Brown, *dated the 7th September* 1840, *alluded to in that Officer's Diary for the 17th September* 1840.

Sir,

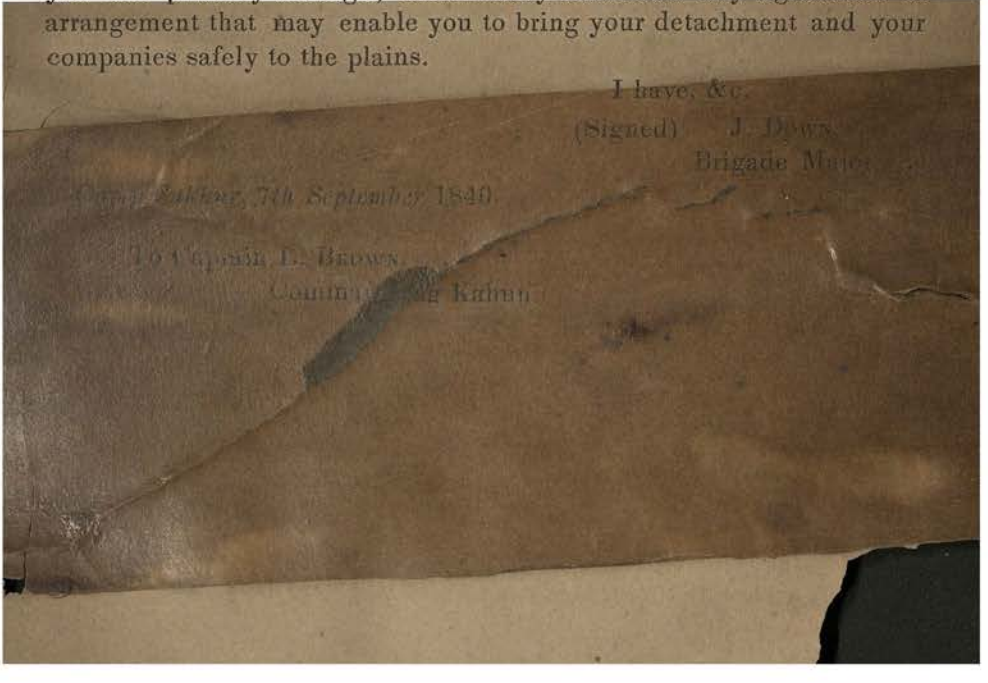
Ere this letter reaches you, if it ever should reach, you will probably have heard the sad and disastrous misfortune that has befallen the

detachment under the command of Major Clibborn, 1st Grenadier Regiment, which was dispatched on the 31st ultimo, for the purpose of relieving your worn-out men, and throwing a new garrison into Kahun, with provisions for two months. At the Pass of Nuffoosk, after some hours spent in desperate attempts to crown the heights, and after severe fighting until noon; after hours of patient perseverance against raging thirst, from the want of water, and the utmost efforts of men determined to carry out the objects for which they were destined; and the loss of four officers killed, and one severely wounded, Major Clibborn, with the only chance of saving the remnant of his enfeebled troops, by falling back for water, was under the painful necessity of deciding on the abandonment of your brave detachment in Kahun. Under these circumstances, I am directed by Major Forbes to state, that all attempts to relieve you have failed: there are neither troops, followers, nor supplies nor carriage for another expedition in your favour; and being under the painful necessity of leaving you, after having done all in his power, to your own resources, your post has become untenable; and he begs you to act in any way, either by a rapid night march, or, if so fortunate, by making any terms you can possibly conclude with the enemy. He begs you to act for yourself in the best way you can possibly manage; and he fully authorises any agreement or arrangement that may enable you to bring your detachment and your companies safely to the plains.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. Dows

Brigade Major



MEMOIR

ON THE

BAY, HARBOUR, AND TRADE, OF KURACHEE.

BY THE LATE

COMMANDER T. G. CARLESS,

INDIAN NAVY.

Submitted to Government in August 1838.

KURACHEE.

The Bay of Kurachee is the easternmost of two large bays formed by the junction of the Sind and Gwader Coasts, and is situated between Ras Mooaree (the Cape Monze of the old charts) and the Piltee or western mouth of the Indus. Within these limits it embraces an extent of about 33 miles of sea coast, and in the centre recedes to a depth of seven or eight miles. In most parts the shore is extremely low, being composed of hillocks, or rather heaps of loose sand, thinly dotted with the prickly-pear bush; or, as on the eastern side, with the tamarisk. To the north a range of mountains is seen descending from the interior, which terminates at Ras Mooaree in a long, narrow, [illegible] ridge, apparently of sandstone formation: it is about [illegible] high, remarkably even along the summit, having no pro[illegible] rocks, and on both sides of the cape is washed by the sea [illegible] for a distance of some miles. Further inland, the mountain [illegible] this range, which extends in a NNE. and SSW. direction, [illegible] about 8,000 feet in altitude, and it is one of the great spurs [illegible] towards the sea coast from the mass of mountains occupying [illegible] central parts of Beloochistan. A short distance from Kurachee [illegible] several ranges and hills of less elevation, irregular in form [illegible] direction of their outline; but they do not extend far to the eastward, [illegible] are, indeed, merely the lower projections of the great range. [illegible] the east side of the bay the Delta of the Indus commences, the [illegible] being low and flat, and of alluvial formation: at this part not a [illegible] or rising ground is to be seen, and the land is everywhere thinly [illegible] with tamarisk jungle.

Kurachee Harbour is situated at the head of the bay, midway between Ras Mooaree and the Piltee mouth. On the summit of the elevated rocky cape that forms the western point, there is a small fort, built to command the entrance, which is in 24° 47′ 17″ N. lat., and 67° 00′ 51″ E. long.; and in the centre of the small but deep bay to the eastward of it there is a group of rocky islets, from 60 to 100 feet high, lying in a north and south direction, having a remarkably rugged appearance; and being visible nine or ten miles, they form good marks for the navigator in approaching the harbour; and as they have no decided

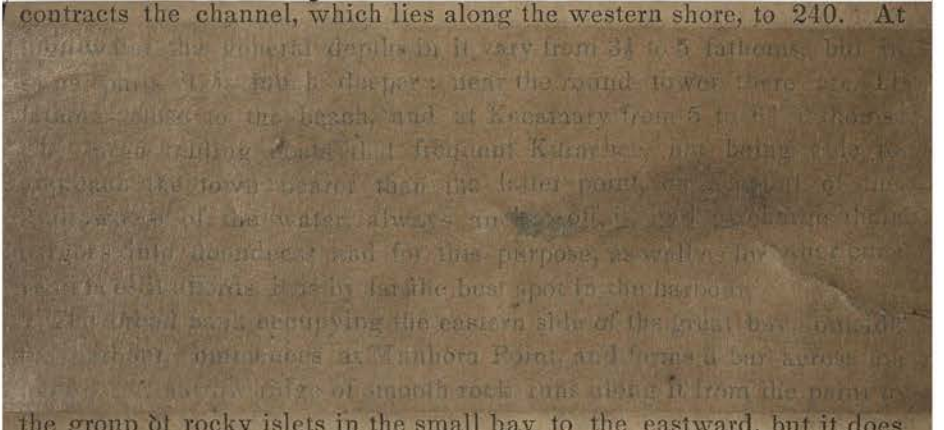
name, I have called the three largest North Island, Middle Island, and South Island.

The Buygaur, or western branch of the Indus, falls into the Bay of Kurachee in lat. 24° 37′ N., 15 miles below the harbour: its mouth, the Piltee, is wide, but from a cursory examination appears to be shallow, and choked with sandbanks. A few miles above it, the coast, receding slightly, forms a long irregular bay, the greater part of which is occupied by a low flat island, thinly covered with bushes. The Ghisree, a small salt-water river, reaches the sea opposite its southern extremity, and is approached by two narrow channels, winding amongst a mass of shoals; but they are sufficiently deep and easy of access to admit of being navigated by boats of considerable size. The Ghisree river, called the Garrah in the upper part, is about 500 yards wide at the mouth, and leads to Bunder Garrah, a small seaport town situated on its banks, 25 or 30 miles from the sea. Above this it does not run far into the land, and has no communication with either the main river or its western branch. At Tatta, the dry bed of a small stream is still seen, which pursues a course past the city to the westward, towards the Garrah, and it is probable that river was at one period the westernmost branch of the Indus.

About Ras Mooaree the water is deep, there being 14 and 15 fathom close to the rocks: in most parts of the bay the bottom is composed of soft mud, and the soundings decrease gradually as you approach the eastern shore, up to the edge of the broad sandbank lying off it. This bank commences at the mouth of the harbour, projects three or four miles from the land, and forms the upper extremity of the great bank, everywhere extending to a greater or less distance from the Sind coast. It crosses the mouths of the Buygaur and Garrah, and has various depths on it, from 2½ fathoms to 3 or 4 feet. To the westward of the harbour a sunken reef, with many shoal patches on it, runs out in some places a mile and a half from the shore, and the bottom is, besides, very irregular and rocky two miles further out. It is not dangerous, for the change in the nature of the bottom will always give sufficient warning to vessels in standing towards it, and it does not, besides, lie in the direct route to the harbour.

The harbour of Kurachee has been formed by the numerous streams and torrents that descend from the adjacent hills in the rainy season, which, flowing from every direction towards that part of the sea coast where the land is lowest, have cut at their junction a deep bay or inlet. It is nearly five miles long, and, including the lagoons and swamps of the upper part, extends in an east and west line for a distance of 10 miles: not above a fourth, however, of this space affords anchorage for vessels of any size, the remainder being occupied by extensive mud

flats, or choked with shoals that are partially dry at low tide. The western side of the harbour is formed by a narrow ridge of loose sand, projecting some distance beyond the line of the coast, and having a piece of table-land at its extremity, which rises from the water in steep cliffs about 100 feet high. On the summit of this rocky cape, which is called Munhora, there is a small fort, a mosque, and two or three other buildings; and the entrance is further defended by a round tower, situated half a mile above them, on the low land. To the eastward of the cape, the shore, receding abruptly, leaves a deep bay, separated from the swamps in the vicinity of the town by a narrow ridge of low sandhills, and having a group of rocky islets nearly in its centre. The sandy ridge is isolated at high tide by the Chinny Creek, and terminates about two miles above the entrance of the harbour in a low point, called Keeamary. From this point a sandbank, which dries at low-water, extends nearly as far down as the fort on Munhora Point; and the space included within this shoal and the opposite or western shore from Keeamary to Munkora Point forms, strictly speaking, the harbour of Kurachee, for it is the only portion of it that affords anchorage for vessels of any size. At Keeamary it is nearly half a mile wide, but a short distance below the round tower, where it is narrowest, not above 300 yards. A shallow spit of hard sand runs down the centre, and contracts the channel, which lies along the western shore, to 240. At



the group of rocky islets in the small bay to the eastward, but it does not rise above the level of the sandbank, and the soundings on it are as regular as in other parts. At high tide there is a depth of rather more than 3 fathoms (19 feet) in the proper channel, and it may be crossed without difficulty by vessels drawing 15 or 16 feet.

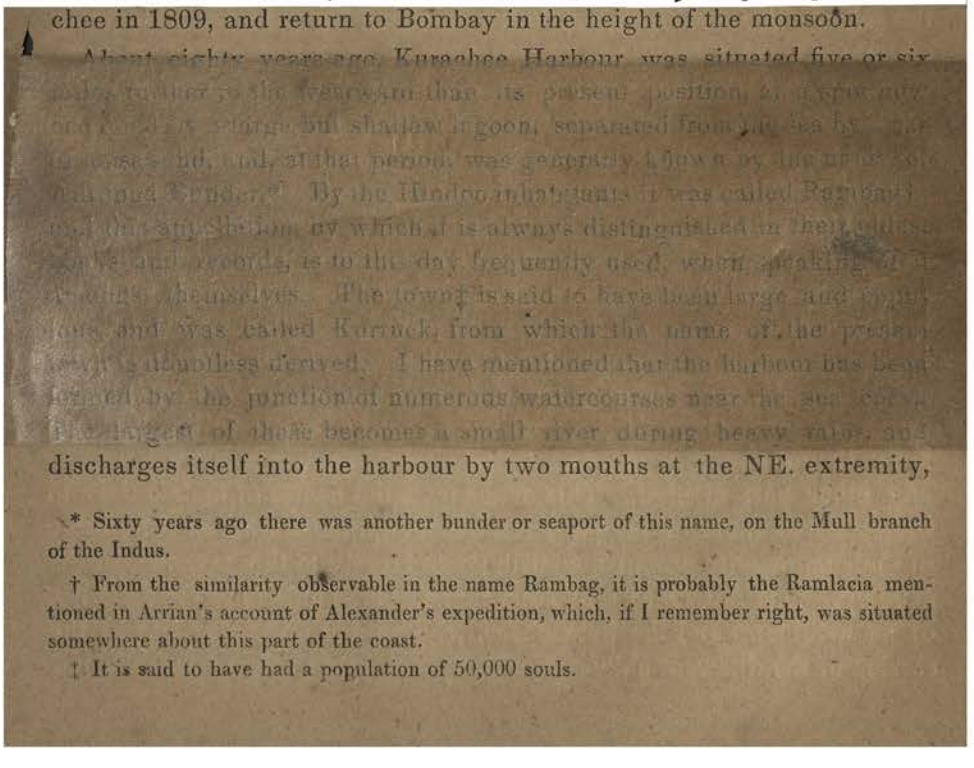
Above Keeamary Point the harbour suddenly opens out both to the eastward and westward, for a distance of several miles: in this part it forms at high tide a vast sheet of water, which has the appearance of a lake, dotted here and there with woody islets; but at low-water the scene becomes entirely changed, and exceedingly dreary, presenting to

the eye an accumulation of mud flats, with narrow threads of water winding through them, and a succession of swamps or shallow lagoons stretching away in every direction, further than the eye can reach. To the westward they extend nearly to the foot of the hills that descend from the interior to Ras Mooaree, and are only separated from the sea by a narrow strip of sand. The principal channel leading up to the town, which is two miles from Keeamary Point, and four from the mouth of the harbour, is bounded by mudbanks, covered with large patches of mangrove bushes, and at low-water is so shallow—there not being in many places a greater depth than one foot—that it does not afford a passage for any boat larger than a canoe. At high spring tides there is a depth of 10 and 12 feet in it, and large dinghies can get up to within three or four hundred yards of the landing-place. It terminates in a narrow creek, running through the mud flat in front of the town, which at high-water is sufficiently deep to admit of boats pulling up to a white mosque built close to the Custom House, on a small piece of rising ground, where, for about two hours in the day, the inhabitants are enabled to land without inconvenience. Besides this channel, there is another, leading up to the town by a circuitous route, at the back of the islets, and this, being the deepest of the two, is always used at low-water; but as it terminates in the centre of a broad mud flat, which has to be crossed before the dry land is gained, it is as difficult to get ashore at this spot as in other parts of the harbour. The creek running up to the white mosque pursues a course past it to the SE., across an extensive swamp, and reaches the sea near a remarkable flat cliff, named Mahdeo, situated on the shores of the small bay to the eastward of the harbour's mouth. It is called the Chinny Creek, is navigable for boats of a large size, and much used by the fishing dinghies.

The small fort on the rocky cape at the entrance, with the round tower near it, both of which are built of stone, constitute the only defences of the harbour. The former is of a square form, with bastions at the angles, and, on the side looking inland, is strengthened by a kind of semi-circular redoubt; it has a parapet running round it, with numerous loopholes for musketry, and as far as I could judge, for I was not allowed to examine it closely, has eight or ten guns (six and nine-pounders), mounted on the walls. This fort was erected by the Sindians in 1797, to command the entrance of the harbour; but it is built too far from the edge of the cliffs to do so effectually, and could not, in fact, offer any serious opposition to a vessel attempting to enter it. A sloop-of-war anchored at a proper distance would soon reduce it to a heap of ruins; and the round tower, which mounts three or four small guns, would quickly share the same fate, for a vessel may anchor within

200 yards of it, and two or three broadsides would be sufficient to bring it to the ground.

From the report of the inhabitants, confirmed by the testimony of several Arab Nakodas who frequent the place, it is evident that Kurachee Harbour is accessible at any period of the SW. monsoon, which does not blow with such violence on this part of the Sind Coast as it does further to the southward. Before it reaches the Gwader Coast its force is, in fact, almost expended, and it is only felt there at times in a heavy swell, and an occasional fresh breeze. The Muscat boats frequently make the voyage to Kurachee when it is at its height: they run along the Gwader Coast with the wind from the SW., and if it comes on to blow fresh, take shelter in one of the many bays or Khores with which it abounds,—such as Gwader Bay, Churbar Bay, or Khore Gorad,—all of which afford good anchorage. The monsoon is scarcely felt until they arrive within 200 miles of Kurachee, and on this part of the coast there is always a heavy swell, and strong SW. winds sometimes occur. At Kurachee, northerly breezes blow from the land at intervals throughout the monsoon, and boats take advantage of these to leave it, and return to Muscat. If they do not occur, they are obliged to remain until the stormy season is over, not being able, from the peculiarity of their construction, to work out of the harbour against the wind and sea. It was one of these northerly winds that enabled the H. C. cruizer *Prince of Wales*, and *Maria*, country ship, to quit Kurachee in 1809, and return to Bombay in the height of the monsoon.



discharges itself into the harbour by two mouths at the NE. extremity,

* Sixty years ago there was another bunder or seaport of this name, on the Mull branch of the Indus.

† From the similarity observable in the name Rambag, it is probably the Ramlacia mentioned in Arrian's account of Alexander's expedition, which, if I remember right, was situated somewhere about this part of the coast.

‡ It is said to have had a population of 50,000 souls.

near the town. In many parts of the surrounding country the soil is very loose and sandy, and the quantity which gradually accumulated before this stream, became at last so large as to turn the water from the direction of the old harbour towards an opening in a low range of hills on the sea coast, where it quickly forced an outlet. Being composed of very soft sandstone, they in course of time yielded to the continued action of the stream, and becoming undermined as the channel expanded, fell in masses, which were quickly dissolved, and swept out to sea. All that now remains of this range is the rocky cape, forming the western point of the harbour's mouth, and the group of islets in the bay to the eastward of it. The latter are steep and craggy, and bear evident marks of having been formed by the action of water; two of them are also perforated at the base, and the holes, which form natural arches, are so large, that a ship's boat can pass through without difficulty. The fact of the harbour having undergone the change above described, as stated by the Natives, is confirmed by the existence of the rocky ledge, stretching across its mouth from Ras Munhora to the islets, for there can be little doubt that it is the remains of the ridge that at one period united them.

The town of Kurachee is built upon a slightly elevated piece of ground, which projects a short distance into the swamps and flats on the eastern side of the harbour. It occupies rather a large space, and is defended by a mud wall, with round towers at each angle, and along the sides. The fortifications, however, are of the meanest description, and are in a most dilapidated state: most of the towers are mere heaps of earth, and there are many breaches in the walls so large that the inhabitants use them as convenient places of ingress and egress. About forty guns are mounted in the different bastions, but they are mostly of a small calibre, and nearly useless from age. Like most Native cities, the space inside is completely filled up with houses, and the streets are so narrow that two horsemen can barely pass each other in the principal thoroughfares. Outside, the suburbs on two sides extend from the walls to some distance, and contain almost as many houses as the town itself. At present Kurachee has a population of 14,000 souls, half of which are Hindoos, and the rest Beloochees, Jokeeahs, Mowanas, and Jutts. Many of the Hindoo merchants possess great wealth, and, as a body, they are more independent, and possess greater influence, than in any other part of Sind. This arises from the desire of their rulers to increase the trade of the port, and encourage those who, in the course of their mercantile pursuits, contribute so largely to the revenues of the country. The Mowanas and Jutts are employed chiefly in the fisheries, or as artificers; and the Beloochees, who are not numerous, are in the service of the different chiefs as military followers. The Jokeeahs and

Jakriahs inhabit the mountains to the northward, and there are but few resident in the town. These tribes boast a descent from the Soomra Rajpoots who formerly ruled in Sind, and, it is said, can bring 1,500 or 2,000 men into the field. They are a branch of the large Noomree tribe, which occupies the province of Lus, and the SW. parts of Beloochistan, and, previous to the conquest of Kurachee by the Sindians, acknowledged the authority of the Jam of Beyla; but since that period they have been subject to the Ameers.

In the vicinity of the town, the country is low and flat, and the soil inferior, being composed of a light loose clay, mixed with a greater or less quantity of sand. Between the NE. suburb and the bed of the Layaree river there are several large groves of date, mango, and tamarind trees, and many patches of cultivation. The gardens are devoted chiefly to the production of the esculent vegetables, and in the dry season are irrigated from wells; but, from the poverty of the soil, they do not yield a crop sufficient to repay the agriculturist for his labour for more than two or three years, and he is then obliged to desert them for other spots.

The Layaree river descends from the nearest range of hills, which is about five miles distant, and, dividing into two branches not far from its mouth, falls into the harbour close to the town. It is about 200 yards broad, has perpendicular banks, and is only filled for a day or two after a heavy fall of rain, when it is from three to six feet deep, and the current so rapid that it can seldom be forded either by man or beast.

There are about fifty trading boats belonging to Kurachee, which average about 30 tons in burden, besides numerous small fishing-boats, and

the port. Formerly it was the practice of merchants throughout Sind to import goods by the port of Sonmeeanee, where the duties were more moderate, and, by means of agents resident there, to send them from that place to Khelat, and eventually to Kandahar by the Beyla route. This was strictly forbidden by the Ameers, under the severest penalties; and the merchants being obliged to import everything into Kurachee, the

trade and revenue accruing from it increased considerably in consequence. The duty levied on all imports is 4 per cent. on landing, and, with the exception of silk, piece goods, and copper, an additional 2½ per cent. when the goods leave the town, to be forwarded to Upper Sind. The latter is also the duty on all exports, which are also charged 1 per cent. on being brought into the town. There is, besides, a further duty of Rs. 3 on every kurwar (about 1,800 lbs.) of goods imported and exported. In 1809, the revenue derived from the customs was Rs. 99,000, but now it averages annually above Rs. 1,50,000. Some years it falls short of that sum, but at others is considerably greater. This fluctuation arises from the greater or less quantity of opium brought from Marwar, to be shipped at the port, which in some seasons amounts to 1,500 camel-loads, but at others to not more than 80 loads. The revenue collected in 1837, which was as follows, is said to be about the annual average:—

Ad valorem duty of 4 per cent. on all goods imported, on being landed	Rs. 63,021
Further duty of 2½ per cent. on leaving the town, with the exception of silk, piece goods, and copper, and on all exports	30,512
Duty of 1 per cent. on goods brought in from the surrounding districts for exportation	5,360
Tax on the fisheries (one-eighth)	4,000
Additional duty of Rs. 3 per kurwar on all imports and exports	6,000
Opium transit duty of Rs. 130 per camel-load, on 500 loads	65,000
Amount of Revenue	Rs. 173,893

The average annual value of the trade of Kurachee, exclusive of opium and precious stones, amounts to about Rs. 21,46,625. The following list, drawn up from information obtained from the principal merchants of the place, exhibits the quantity and price of the different articles imported and exported:—

IMPORTS.

From Bombay.

Sugar, Bengal, China, Manilla, and Batavia,	4,000 mds.,	at Rs. 12½	per md.	Rs. 50,000
Sugarcandy,	250 „	„ 18	„	4,500
Pepper,	3,250 „	„ 15	„	48,750
Cocoanuts,	200,000			3,350
Saffron,	200 mds.,	at Rs. 10	per md.	2,000
Betelnuts,	100 „	„ 5	„	500

Cinnabar, White & Red,	250 mds.,	at Rs. 10	per md..	Rs. 2,500
Lead,	250 „	„ 10	„	2,500
Steel, best,	500 „	„ 11	„	5,500
Steel, inferior,	50 „	„ 9½	„	475
Iron,	1,500 „	„ 6	„	9,000
Copper,	1,000 „	„ 54	„	54,000
Quicksilver,	450 lbs., at Rs. 2 per lb.....			900
Cardamoms, Spices, &c.,	75 mds., at Rs. 140 per md.....			10,500
Raw Silk, Dyed, Bengal and China, 1st sort,	200 „	„ 600	„	1,20,000
Ditto, 2nd sort,	800 „	„ 160	„	1,28,000
Timber,	500 guz, at Rs. 20 per guz.....			10,000
Ivory,	400 mds., at Rs. 160 per md.....			64,000
Senna,	500 „	„ 6	„	3,000
Coarse Sugar, from Malabar Coast,	5,000 „	„ 7	„	35,000
China Paper,	50 boxes,	„ 50 per box		2,500
English Cotton Yarn,	500 mds.,	„ 40 per md.		20,000
Sandalwood,	50 „	„ 30	„	1,500
Iron Pots and Pans,	250 „	„ 12	„	3,000
Cussoon (a red dye),	150 „	„ 25	„	3,750
Cobra (dried cocoanut),	5,000 „	„ 5	„	25,000
Tin,	500 „	„ 35	„	17,500
Airyon (a drug),	150 „	„ 40	„	6,000
Tamarinds,	300 „	„ 3¼	„	650

From Guzerat.

Cotton,	2,500 mds.,	at Rs. 15 per md.....		37,500

From Persian Gulf.

Dates,	20,000 mds.,	at Rs. 1½ per md.		30,000
Dates, dried,	20,000 „	„ 3½ „		70,000
Pearls.....				75,000
Dried Limes,	200 mds.,	at Rs. 4 per md.		800
Dried Roses,	250 „	„ 10 „		2,500
Slaves,	1,500,	at Rs. 80 each.....		1,20,000
Cotton Canvas				1,250
Dried Fruits,	75 mds.,	at Rs. 4 per md.....		300
Almonds,	100 „	„ 8 „		800
Pomegranate Skins,	1,000 „	„ 3 „		3,000

From Bombay, Silks, Piece Goods, &c. consisting of—
Madapollams.
Long Cloth.
China and Bengal Silk Handkerchiefs.

Coloured Cotton Handkerchiefs.
Jamdanees, gold, flowered, and plain.
Silks, plain and figured, English, French, and China.
China Satin.
Cambric.
Camlet.
Cotton Velvet.
Bengal Silk Sarees.
Muslins, Mull, Jacconet, plain, flowered, and Book.
Surat Kinkobs.
Chintzes of various patterns.
Sheeting Cloth.
Broadcloth, English, superfine and coarse, of different colours.
Gauze.
Common English Shawls ..... Rs. 6,00,000

From Upper Sind.

Tobacco, 200 mds., at Rs. 8 per md 1,600
Coarse Cotton Cloth 3,000

From Lus.

Oil Cake, 12,000 mds., at Rs. 1-10-0 per md 19,500

Value of the Imports .... Rs. 15,99,625

EXPORTS.

Ghee,	10,000	mds., at Rs.	17	per md	.. Rs.	1,70,000
Wool,	3,500	„ „	10	„	....	35,000
Gogur (a gum),	5,000	„ „	2½	„	....	12,500
Purwaz (a red dye)						6,000
Mungeet (Madder),	3,000	mds., at Rs.	15	per md	....	45,000
Raisins,	4,000	„ „	8	„	....	32,000
Jeerah (a kind of seed),	1,000	„ „	10	„	....	10,000
Indigo,	1,600	„ „	75	„	....	1,20,000
Oil Seed, 1,000 kurwars, at Rs. 70 per kurwar						7,000
Wheat, 1,500	„	„	45	„	.....	67,500
Oil, 1,000 mds., at Rs. 7 per md						7,000
Salt Fish, Cod-sounds, and Shark-fins						30,000
Loongees						5,000

Value of the Exports .... Rs. 5,47,000

Opium shipped at the port, 500 camel-loads, each load 8 maunds, at Rs. 400 per maund ..... Rs. 16,00,000

Whole value of the Trade, including Opium .... Rs. 37,46,625

Five or six years ago, 15,000 maunds of cotton were brought annually from Kutch and Guzerat, but it has since been cultivated with such success in Sind, that only the quantity mentioned in the list at page 199 (2,500 maunds) is now required. When the season is unfavourable in Sind, wheat and jowaree are also imported from Guzerat.

Slabs, dishes, and hooka bottoms, made of marble, were lately sent form Marwar, but did not meet with a sale.

Formerly, not more than 150 African slaves were brought annually to Kurachee, but last year (1837) not less than 1,500 arrived from Muscat and the African Coast. The increase in this disgraceful traffic is said to be owing to the seizure of the slaves brought by an Arab buggalow to Porebunder, two or three years ago, which appears to have had a good effect on the Arab traders, and will, no doubt, prevent them from bringing them to any of our ports for the future.

All the pearls brought from the Persian Gulf are sold in Sind, where they are in great request. I saw a very fine pair, for which the merchant asked Rs. 5,000.

Within the last two years, the pearl oyster has been found in Kurachee Harbour, and at the Piltee or western mouth of the Indus, in great quantities: last season about 15,000 pearls were obtained, but they were all extremely small, and of little value, even as seed-pearls, from their bad shape and colour.

The value of the silks, piece goods, &c. imported annually is estimated at Rs. 6,00,000. The following articles are sent in large quantities, and are in great request:—long cloth, madapollams, coloured cotton handkerchiefs, plain jamdanees, jacconet muslin, cheap English shawls, chintzes of various patterns, of which the striped is preferred, and the coarser kinds of broadcloth. Surat kinkobs to the value of about Rs. 20,000 find a ready sale, and a small quantity of the other articles mentioned in the list are imported, such as China and Bengal silk handkerchiefs, China satin and velvet, gold flowered jamdanees, flowered and plain silks, Bengal silk sarees, muslins of various kinds, plain, flowered, and striped, cambric, cotton velvet, camlet, sheeting cloth, gauze, and superfine broadcloth. Loongees to the value of Rs. 7,000 or Rs. 8,000 are manufactured yearly in Kurachee, but they are inferior to those of Tatta; about two-thirds are exported, and the remainder disposed of in the town.

The opium comes from Marwar, and is sent to Demaun, where the duty is said to be less than at Bombay. The supply varies: some years it is not more than 80 camel-loads, but at others 1,000 and 1,500,—the average is about 500; and it pays a transit duty of Rs. 130 per load.

The value of the precious stones brought from the upper provinces

and Persia is not known, as they are conveyed privately; but it is supposed to be considerable.

They consist of diamonds, emeralds, rubies, amethysts, sapphires, topazes, and turquoises. The greater part, including all the best, are sent to Bombay and Bengal, and a few of the least valuable disposed of in Sind.

From the districts between Shikarpoor and Bhawulpoor, Kurachee receives annually 1,600 maunds of indigo, which is exported to Bombay and the Persian Gulf; it is inferior in quality to that of Bengal, and does not sell for above half the price. Tobacco is also sent from the former city to the amount of about 200 maunds, and coarse cotton cloth to the value of Rs. 3,000, which is all consumed in the town. From the upper provinces, precious stones, raisins, dried fruits, and madder, reach Kurachee by the Khelat route; and ghee, wheat, gogur (a gum), oil, and oil-cake, are sent from Lus and the mountainous districts lying to the north of the town. The ghee and gum are exported to Bombay, and the greater part of the wheat and oil to the Persian Gulf, but all the oil-cake is retained for the cattle.

Nearly the whole of the goods imported into Kurachee are consumed in Sind, the value of those sent to the northern provinces of India, which consist chiefly of piece goods, with a small quantity of steel, sugar, pepper, and spices, seldom exceeding Rs. 1,50,000. These goods are conveyed on camels to Khelat in twenty-six days by the Beyla route, which, although the roads are infested with bands of plunderers belonging to the Brahoee tribes, is preferred to the other route by Sehwan, on account of the heavy duties exacted at that town, which amount to Rs. 30 per camel-load on silks and piece goods, and Rs. 6 on all other articles. At Khelat the duty is only 5 per cent. From Khelat, the goods proceed to Kandahar in twenty days, and from that city in eighteen days to Kabool. The road is very unsafe for travellers, being exposed to the depredations of the Puthan tribes, who frequently waylay the caravans, and either plunder them of large quantities of goods, or exact an equivalent in money. At Kandahar and Kabool, a duty of 5 per cent. is levied, either in goods or money, and there are two or three other places besides on the road where a small transit duty is collected, which altogether amounts to about Rs. 5 per camel-load.

Since Dost Mahomed has become the Chief of Kabool, the northern provinces of India have been in a very unsettled state; and, in consequence, the districts through which the caravans have to pass, have for a long period been infested with bands of marauders, belonging to different Afghan and Puthan tribes, who subsist almost entirely by plunder. The general insecurity of property which this state of things

has produced, prevents the Kurachee merchants from sending goods to that part of India; for although the profits are large, they consider the risk too great. The trade, which, I have before remaked, does not exceed Rs. 1,50,000 in value, is in consequence now in the hands of a few Puthan merchants, who, from their knowledge of the country and inhabitants, are enabled to carry it on with less loss than others. Before Dost Mahomed dethroned Shah Soojah-ool-Moolk, the former Chief of Kabool, when the country appears to have been in a more settled state, the quantity of goods sent from Kurachee to that city was considerably larger than it has ever been since, the value of the sugar and pepper alone amounting annually to above Rs. 1,50,000. It is the opinion of all the merchants I have spoken with on the subject, that but little trade will find its way to the upper provinces of India by the land route from Kurachee, as long as the intermediate districts remain in their present disorganized state; but that when the different petty chiefs are forced to prevent their followers from plundering the caravans, and the roads are rendered safe for travellers, large quantities of European goods would be sent up to all the great towns and cities. As it is not likely this will take place for a very long period, it is clear that any trade with the upper provinces must be conveyed by the channel of the Indus.

The articles consumed in Sind go by land to Bunder Garah, Tatta, Hyderabad, Sehwan, Shikarpoor, and Khyrpoor. The caravans reach Tatta in three days, Hyderabad in six, Sehwan in thirteen, Khyrpoor in twenty, and Shikarpoor in twenty-five. The duties levied at these places vary in amount, but are frequently evaded in part by the rich merchants, who have relations or friends connected with the court. This system, so unjust to the poorer trader, from whom the whole duty is always rigorously exacted, appears to prevail throughout Sind.

From the difficulty that attends the navigation of the Indus in the Delta in the dry season, it is evident, that if it ever becomes the channel of an extensive commerce with the northern provinces of India, it will be necessary to establish a portage from some port on the Sind Coast, as far as may be requisite, to avoid the foul part of the river. Kurachee, from its peculiar local advantages, is undoubtedly the best port for this purpose, the harbour being well protected from all winds, and accessible for vessels drawing fourteen or fifteen feet, throughout the year; and I think the best spot for re-shipping the goods on the main river will be found at some of the villages opposite Hyderabad. Between Tatta and Hyderabad, the bed of the river appears to be as foul and changeable as it is in the Delta; but as far as it has been examined above the latter city, is said to be much deeper, and free from sandbanks. Should this, on further and more minute examination, prove to be the

case, there can be no doubt that Hyderabad is the best place for re-shipping the goods; for by this means all that part of the river which is so exceedingly foul, and where the navigation is attended with so much difficulty and delay, will be avoided. It is worthy of remark, that none of the goods intended for Upper Sind are ever sent from Kurachee to Tatta, but direct to Hyderabad, which saves both time and expense: the merchants are of course aware of the advantages and disadvantages of both routes, and this of itself appears to me a convincing proof that the latter is to be preferred for a portage.

The only part of the country in the neighbourhood of Kurachee worth visiting is the Valley of Peer Mungah, situated amongst the hills, about eight miles from the town, where there are several hot springs. My curiosity being excited by the strange tales related by the inhabitants concerning a temple that stood there, which was said to be very ancient, I determined to examine it, and on expressing a wish to that effect to the Governor, one of the chiefs was ordered to accompany me to the spot.

After we had got clear of the groves and gardens outside the town, and crossed the dry bed of the Layaree, our road led to the northward, towards a range of low broken hills, about five miles distant. Beyond the bed of the Layaree, the country is a level plain, completely overrun with large prickly-pear bushes or mimosa trees, which, as you advance, rises slightly towards the foot of the hills, and the soil is composed of a light loose clay, with here and there a mixture of fine sand.

An hour's ride brought us to the foot of the hills, which are about 800 feet high, and of coarse sandstone formation: we crossed them through an irregular rocky ravine, having every appearance of being the bed of a large torrent during the rains, and then pursued our way along several small valleys, bounded by long narrow ridges, or detached hills. At the gorge of the pass by which we entered, a mound built of fragments of rock was pointed out to me, which is said to contain the treasures of an ancient monarch of the country, and to be the abode of a host of demons, who prevent any one from attempting to open it. About an hour after we had left this spot, we gained the entrance of the plain or valley in which the springs are situated.

The Valley of Peer Mungah is surrounded by hills 700 or 800 feet high, between which glimpses are occasionally obtained of the level plains beyond; but, at the upper extremity, stretches away in high undulating ground far to the northward. An extensive grove of date and other trees occupies the centre of the plain, and on the western side there is another, above which is seen the cupola of a small white mosque, erected on a rocky eminence. Passing through several patches of cultivation, irrigated by the waters of the different springs, we

dismounted in the largest grove, where we found carpets spread under the shade of the trees, and a repast prepared. Whilst we were partaking of it, a man was dispatched to the spring to send away several women, who, when we arrived, were enjoying the luxury of a hot bath in its waters; and as soon as they had vanished, we proceeded to view it.

The spring gushes out in a small stream from amongst the roots of a picturesque clump of date trees, covering the extremity of a rocky knoll of limestone, about 30 feet high, and falls into a small natural basin, from whence it escapes in numerous rills to the adjacent gardens. The name of this spring is Kistee, but it was formerly called Keerkoond, or the milk-tank, from the water being milk-white, which was, no doubt, owing to its flowing at that time over a bed of chalk. It is now colourless, and perfectly pure to the taste, having no perceptible flavour of any kind; but, from the stones in some of the rivulets being incrusted with a soft substance of a dark reddish-brown colour, probably contains a small portion of iron. The water is so warm, that at first you can scarcely bear your hand in it. I unfortunately forgot to take a thermometer with me, to ascertain its exact temperature, but this was done by some of the officers who visited it afterwards, when it was found to be 133°. The Natives say it cures every disease, and not only bathe in it whenever they have an opportunity, but drink it in large quantities. They believe that all the springs in the valley owe their existence to Lall Shahbaz, the celebrated Saint of Sehwan, who, in order to make the spot holy, commanded them to burst forth from the rocks.

In the centre of a small piece of grass land, near the spring, I observed what at first I took for a shapeless mass of mud; but on walking towards it, was warned by the Beloochees not to go near it, as it was an alligator. In the utmost astonishment, I asked them how it got there, when they told me it was sent by the saint, and that at the temple I should see hundreds of them. The monster, which was about 12 feet long, was lying asleep on the grass, and when one of the Belooch soldiers roused him by heaving a piece of rock at his head, sprung up in a rage, opened wide his huge jaws, and then sunk down again to sleep. I could not but be surprised at seeing the women and children passing and repassing within a few yards of this disgusting-looking brute, and that, too, without appearing to think they had the slightest danger to apprehend.

The grove in which we had taken up our temporary quarters is nearly a mile long, and composed chiefly of date trees, which yield fruit to the value of about Rs. 1,000 yearly; there are also tamarind, mango, and nebecky trees in abundance; and altogether it is rather a pretty spot. From a small hill near it, my companions pointed out a

high long mountain, about 20 miles to the northward, called Jibbel Pubh, which is celebrated all over the country, on account of the many wonderful stories related of it.

After everything worthy of notice about the Kistee spring had been examined, we mounted our horses, and proceeded to the temple, on the western side of the valley. It is surrounded by a thick grove; and on emerging from the narrow path that leads through it, we came suddenly upon one of the most singular scenes I ever witnessed. The accounts of my companions had prepared me for something extraordinary, but the reality far surpassed their description. Before us lay a small swamp, enclosed in a belt of lofty trees, which had evidently been formed by the superfluous waters of the spring close by, flowing into a low hollow in the ground. It was not a single sheet of water, but was full of small islets; so much so, that it appeared as if an immense number of narrow channels had been cut, so as to cross each other in every direction. These channels were literally swarming with large alligators; and the islets and banks were thickly covered with them also. The swamp is not more than 150 yards long, by about 80 yards broad; and in this confined space I counted above 200 large ones, from 8 to 15 feet long, whilst those of a smaller size were innumerable. Our horses were standing within four or five yards of several reclining on the bank, but they took no notice of them, and would not move until roused with a stick. In a small pool, apart from the swamp, there was a very large one, which the people designate the "Chief," because he lives by himself, in a kind of alligatoric state, and will not allow any of the common herd to intrude upon his favourite haunt. It is worthy of remark, that there were several buffaloes standing in the water in the centre of the swamp, and that although the large alligators frequently came in contact with them in swimming past, they never offered them the least molestation. The Natives say they never touch a buffalo, but will instantly attack any other animal, however large. The appearance of the place altogether, with its green, slimy, stagnant waters, and so many of these huge uncouth monsters moving sluggishly about, is disgusting in the extreme; and it will long be remembered by me as the most loathsome spot I have ever beheld.

After gazing upon the scene some time, we proceeded round the swamp to the temple, where the priests had spread carpets for the party, under the shade of some trees. They told me it was a curious sight to see the alligators fed, and that people of rank always gave them a goat for that purpose. Taking the hint, I immediately ordered one to be killed for their entertainment. The animal was slaughtered on the edge of the swamp, and the instant the blood began to flow, the water became perfectly alive with the brutes, all hastening from different

parts towards the spot. In the course of a few minutes, and long before the goat was cut up, upwards of 150 had collected in a mass on the dry bank, waiting with distended jaws until their anticipated feast was ready. We stood within three yards of them; and if one more daring than the rest showed any desire to approach nearer, he was beat back by the children with sticks. Indeed, they were so sluggish, and, if I may use the expression, tame, that I laid hold of one about 12 feet long by his tail, which I took care, however, protruded to a safe distance beyond the mass. When the meat was thrown amongst them, it proved the signal for a general battle; several seized hold of a piece at the same time, and bit, and struggled, and rolled over each other, until almost exhausted with the desperate efforts they made to carry it off. At last all was devoured, and they retired slowly to the water. It was curious to stand by, and see such a mass of these unwieldy monsters almost at your feet, fighting and tearing each other for their food; and there are few things I shall remember so long, as this alligators' feast. They are held sacred by the Natives, who number them at 1,000; and when the young ones are taken into account, this is by no means exaggerated, for every rivulet a foot wide and a few inches deep teems with them.

The mosque is a neat white building, of a square form, surrounded by a broad terrace, with a cupola and slender minarets at the corners; erected on the summit of a rocky crag of limestone; and is said to be 2,000 years old. It is dedicated to Peer Hajee Mungah, who is esteemed a saint by both Hindoos and Mahomedans, and is held in such high veneration throughout Sind, that numbers of bodies are yearly brought from a great distance to be interred near his shrine. The valley, in consequence, is covered with burying grounds, which are full of tombs, elaborately carved and ornamented. All my attendants took off their shoes at the bottom of the flight of steps leading up to the terrace; but as I declined to do this, the priest did not insist on my following their example. The interior of the mosque contains a tomb, surmounted by a canopy of carved woodwork, supported on slender pillars, the whole being very prettily and neatly ornamented, and is kept in excellent order, as are the building and terrace, which are built of stone. On the side of the rock looking towards the alligators' pool, the perpendicular face of the cliff is covered with a coating of smooth chunam; and from the lower part, the principal spring gushes forth through a small fissure. The water is received into two stone reservoirs, and then escapes through several outlets to the swamp below. In one of them was a large alligator with about a dozen young ones, which the inhabitants have named the "Peacock," and consider the progenitor of the whole race. The water of this spring is perfectly

fresh, and slightly warm; but at another, a few yards from it, it is quite cold.

On leaving the temple, we crossed the valley towards the salt spring, which is situated on the eastern side, at the base of a narrow ridge of sandstone, about 600 feet high. The water is extremely salt, and, after forming two or three small pools, escapes in several streams, swarming with small alligators, through an opening in the ridge, and is absorbed in the sandy plain on the other side. The Natives say the water in the pools sometimes rises and falls, and attribute this to the influence of the ocean tides upon it; but this cannot be the true cause, for the rise only takes place at long intervals, and the plains, besides, ascend gradually from the sea up to the spot, which I estimated to be about 150 feet above its level. That there is a considerable rise in the water at times is evident, from the extent of ground about the spring that has been overflowed, which is covered with a saline incrustation to the depth of two or three inches; and it is probably produced merely by a sudden increase in the body of water issuing from it, caused by a heavy fall of rain amongst the mountains in the vicinity.

REPORT

ON THE

TOWN AND PORT OF KURACHEE;

ACCOMPANIED BY INFORMATION RELATIVE TO ITS INHABITANTS, TRADE, REVENUES, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, &c.

BY THE LATE

CAPTAIN S. V. W. HART,

2ND (OR GRENADIER) REGIMENT BOMBAY NATIVE INFANTRY.

Submitted to Government on the 28th January 1840.

KURACHEE.

I have the honour to submit a detailed account of the revenue (Table A) derived by their highnesses the Ameers of Sind from the town and port of Kurachee for twelve months, together with the charges thereon (Table B), as also an explanatory statement (Table D), showing the different items under distinct heads; the whole extracted from the public records of the past year; to which is annexed a memorandum of the weights, measures, and different currencies alluded to in the tables (Table E). I have used my best endeavours to obtain the most correct information on all subjects connected with the trade of this town, and I trust my remarks will be found generally accurate. As the system pursued in collecting the customs was fully detailed in my letter to your address under date the 12th December 1839, I shall on the present occasion only refer to the statements now forwarded.

It would appear that ever since the conquest of Kurachee by the Ameers, it has been exempt from many of those heavy exactions which press so hard on the inhabitants of other cities under their rule,—a fact to be attributed to its distance from the seat of Government, its important position as a port, and the influence possessed by the large body of Hindoo merchants, who contribute so much to its prosperity. That they should be allowed any sway under the rule of so bigotted a Government may seem strange; but when it is stated that no revenue whatever is derived from the soil, the necessity of conciliating traders of whatever tribe at this port will be apparent.

Population.—The population is estimated at from 13,000 to 14,000; but no correct calculation can be formed, as neither house nor poll-taxes are levied. The wealthier portion of the inhabitants live within the walls, which, notwithstanding the high opinion entertained of their strength by the people, are not even calculated to protect the revenue, by preventing goods being smuggled into or out of the town, far less for purposes of defence; and, in their present dilapidated state, are worse than useless, as materially interfering with health, by preventing a free circulation of air through the narrow streets. The houses are all flat-roofed, and built of mud, mixed up with a large quantity of chopped grass, plastered over a framework of wood. Some are two and three stories high, but the generality not more than one: a few only have a

coating of chunam on the roof, the very slight monsoon rendering such an expense almost unnecessary; but all have ventilators open to the westward. The suburbs have greatly extended of late years, many poor persons from the hills having settled here, with a view of obtaining a livelihood as labourers and water-carriers. Fresh water not being procurable, except from the bed of the river, and the wells in the neighbouring gardens, the latter occupation is a profitable one, as much as a Dokra being given for a Ghurra full of it. To the certainty of gaining sufficient to subsist on by this means, or by bringing in wood and grass from the jungle, may be attributed the difficulty experienced by our troops in hiring coolies on their arrival in Kurachee, the people preferring labour at will for trifling gains to regular work with higher wages. The following is a calculation, obtained from the heads of tribes, of the number of inhabitants:—

Hindoos.

Chopper Mahajuns	2,000
Sindee do.	1,200
Punjaubee do.	450
Satha do.	600
Nuseerpooree do.	1,000
Bunderee do.	100
Bhatias (Sindees and Kutchees)	600
Khutree Mahajuns	1,400
Hulwaees, Goldsmiths, Coppersmiths, &c.	500
Temporary residents	250
Bramins and Fakeers	900
Total	9,000

Mahomedans.

Residing in the town	500
Fishermen, Boatmen, &c., outside the Shor Gate	1,500
Persons residing outside the Sheereen Gate	2,500
Khwajas and Memons	350
Total	4,850
Hindoos	9,000
Grand Total	13,850

Government and its Servants.—The office of Civil and Military Governor is usually held by one individual, jointly appointed by their highnesses, who is styled the Nuwab; but the present incumbent holds his situation by the sanction of three only of the Ameers, the fourth (Meer Sobdar) having given his vote to a Hindoo, named Moolchund, who also acts as his Collector. The Nuwab, however, exercises the

uncontrolled authority over the town and neighbourhood; the only limit to his power being the chance of complaints against him reaching the Court of Hyderabad,—an event which occurred only a few months ago, on the occasion of his wishing to introduce some innovations in the system at present pursued in the examination of merchandize at the bunder, and ill-treating some of the lower class of Hindoos. A most favourable answer was returned to the petition of grievances forwarded by the whole body of that tribe, and the Nuwab was warned to be more careful in his conduct for the future towards that industrious class. It may not be out of place to mention here that during the government of Syud Goolam Shah in A. H. 1248 (A. D. 1832)* he forcibly converted a young Lohanee to Mahomedanism. The Hindoos immediately closed their warehouses, dragged their vessels on shore, quitted the town, and petitioned that the obnoxious Governor might be removed; declaring their determination never to return to their occupations until justice was done them. Their complaint was at once listened to, and another person appointed. The extent of authority possessed by the Governor is not very defined, but it is supposed he would never put any person to death without the previous sanction of the Ameers. Mutilation, flogging, and exposure in the stocks, he is empowered to inflict: the former is, however, of rare occurrence; the only instance which is remembered within the last fifteen years being that of a man and woman, for the murder of the latter's husband,—*her* nose and ears, and her paramour's right hand and nose, were then cut off. Flogging is generally awarded for attempts at smuggling, and petty delinquencies. The instrument used is the stem of the date leaf, which, if well applied, lays open the skin at every stroke. Fining is, however, usually resorted to, when the circumstances of the culprit appear to warrant the belief of his ability to raise sufficient funds to purchase his release. Should the fact of his having done so become a matter of notoriety, part of the amount is carried to the credit of the Government, to save appearances; otherwise it becomes the perquisite of the Nuwab, who generally contrives to add not a little to his income in this way. The very trifling remunerations received by the servants of the State, particularly the Amils and Sepoys, is a fruitful source of corruption, and, in the existing state of things, cannot be wondered at. That men who have qualified themselves as accountants in the Persian language (in which all the public documents are kept) should be content to receive such paltry salaries as the statement of charges shows them to be entitled to, would be indeed strange; but, as several have told me, the opportunities of embezzlement are in their power, and they do not hesitate to avail themselves of them;

* This date may be incorrect; but the occurrence took place during Suyd Goolam's government.

or how would it be possible for them to exist? The system is, in consequence, practised by all: the Sepoy receives fees to elude the vigilance of the Amil, who in his turn exacts Salamees, and takes bribes to defraud the Collectors; and they, notwithstanding the check imposed upon them by their jealousy of each other, cheat the Government: nor are such practices considered as disgraceful, the necessity of making *some* addition to their pay, to enable them to support a respectable appearance, being universally acknowledged. In his military capacity, the Nuwab has command of the mud fort in the town, and the few men now kept up there; the taking of the fort at Munora by the British, and subsequent discharge of the troops stationed in it, having materially reduced his authority in this respect,—so much so, that the Ameers now appoint him to a share in the collections, in the management of which he formerly exercised no control whatever. The chief source of emolument derived by the Sepoys is the privilege they enjoy of furnishing escorts to the Kafilas proceeding to the interior, through the districts inhabited by their own tribes, for which their charges are very moderate. To Hyderabad, the Noomreeas (or Nowmurdees, as they are sometimes called) are employed at the rate of Rs. 2-8-0 per man; to Tatta, Jokeeas and Beloochees, at Rs. 2 each; to Sehwan, Noomreeas, also Rs. 2 as far as Thana, two more to Choora, and the same sum thence to Sehwan; making a total of Rs. 6 for the whole distance. To Sonmeeanee, Jokeeas are engaged as safeguards, for Rs. 2 each individual. They become answerable for the safety of the persons and property under their charge; and I am not aware of an instance where this trust has been betrayed, notwithstanding the value of the merchandize (Table B) entrusted to their care. The Collectors rank next to the Governor. Their duties have been before noticed: it is merely necessary to remark that the difference in their pay, as shown in the statement, is caused by the merits or interest of some being greater than that of others.

It has been customary for the Nuwab to obtain leave of absence from his duties during the monsoon, leaving only a deputy to act for him, on a reduced salary; which accounts for the difference in the amount of expenditure for each month under that head (Table B). The Moonshees stationed at the Chubootra are employed in keeping the books, and carrying on the correspondence with the Court. To them the Amils give up their accounts *monthly*, nor are they allowed to see them again until the biennial settlement. The treasurer receives the daily collections made by the Amils, and transmits the balance remaining in his hands, after payment of the salaries of the Government servants, by hoondee monthly to Hyderabad.

General Character.—Of the character of the people in general I

cannot, from the little experience I have had, hazard a decided opinion. The few Mahomedans I have held intercourse with were Syuds, with no great pretensions to learning, bigotted in the extreme; discontented with their own Government, yet more cordially hating the idea of being subject to ours, as likely to put a stop altogether to their zeal for the propagation of the faith. The lower classes are distinguished by a disinclination to labour, and an overweening sense of their own superiority in the use of arms. I have often heard it remarked during the late sickness at Tatta (which they attributed entirely to the wrath of the "lakh and twenty-five thousand Peers," said to be buried on the hill of Makulla, where the troops were encamped, at the desecration of their holy ground), that when the dead fought the good battle so successfully with the arms they are gifted with (disease), what would not their living descendants have done, had the opportunity been allowed them! Even since the gallant capture of Khelat, they have not changed their opinion as far as boasting goes, and imagine that had the brave Murree Beloochees, who fight (Zungeer bur pae) chained to the ground, to conquer or to die, been there, the result would have been different. The Kurachee boatmen are an exception: they far exceed their Indian brethren in boldness and skill in their vocation. With the Hindoos I have associated more closely, and have found the merchants of that tribe the same intelligent, hardworking men as in India. They are as attentive to the most trifling as to the largest gain; correct in their dealings, and enterprising in their speculations. Several have agents at Muscat, Bahrein, Herat, Kabool, Kandahar, Shikarpoor, Bhawulpoor, Mooltan, Mandavie, and Bombay; but they appear to carry on but little intercourse with India, save through the latter port. By keeping their wealth thus spread, they are enabled to hold out the threat of emigrating to a more friendly State in case of over-exactions, and that has the effect (at Kurachee at least) of keeping their rulers within the bounds of moderation. The system of granting remissions of a portion of custom dues to those whose investments are considerable, to encourage them to speculate more largely, is one of the few instances of enlightened policy I have heard of in this country; and this will account for the difficulty I at first experienced in obtaining accurate information on that subject, as the merchants naturally feared their privileges would be done away with if a regular tariff was established. Since, however, they have become better acquainted with our usages, there is nothing they more anxiously desire. The Amils are exclusively Hindoos, mostly of the Bhatia, Satay, and Lohanee tribes; their frugal habits better suiting them for the situation than the indolent and unthrifty Mahomedan. The poorer classes earn their subsistence as retail dealers, carpenters, potters, dyers, navigators of small craft, &c.:

through them the trade between the hill tribes and the towns is carried on, every small village having its shopkeeper, who supplies the inhabitants with grain, and receives the produce of their flocks and herds in payment.

Education.—In Kurachee, three or four schools are conducted by Bramins of the Sarsood and Pokran tribes, where Hindoo children are taught the Sindian language. Each scholar takes a handful of rice and a few sticks with him, as a present to his master, daily; and a rupee or two is paid monthly by the parents. Book-keeping, and reading and writing letters, is all that is taught; indeed I am not aware of the existence of any book in Sindee. The Persian language is taught by the Moolas, of whom ten or twelve have classes, which generally assemble in the mosques: the children of those who intend them for employment in the service of the Government are there instructed, the charge varying from a Tunga to Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 monthly, according to the progress made by the pupil; and on the completion of the child's education it is usual for the master to receive a present. Hindoo girls receive no instruction, but a few Mahomedan females are taught to read the Koran: both classes marry their children when young, if able to afford the expense; but this is not often the case. Among the Punjaubee and Bhatia tribes, and Pokran Bramins, the re-marriage of a virgin widow is not permitted; but the other castes are not so particular.

Mosques and Temples.—There are 21 mosques, and 13 Peer Keejugahs in the town and neighbourhood, of which two are frequented by the Siddee slaves, in preference to the others. None receive any allowance from the Government, except the tomb at Peer Mungah, to which oil is furnished. The Hindoo temples, Fakeer Muths, and Dhurumsalas, are 34 in number, and are supported by offerings from the inhabitants; the only one which receives anything from the State being that at the bunder, to which an allowance of 7½ seers of oil is made monthly. In this temple there is no idol, but a lamp is kept constantly burning, dedicated to the deity of the sea. It is much thought of, and no Hindoo vessel ever enters or leaves the port without a small present being made to the person who owns it.

Gardens.—The gardens at Kurachee extend upwards of a mile up the left bank of the river, which runs past the walls. The bed is dry, except immediately after heavy rain, when the stream runs with such rapidity as formerly to have injured the town, on which account a new channel was cut some years ago to turn its course. Water is, however, always found at a few feet below the surface. Mango trees, and a few tamerinds, flourish. The fruit of the former is more sweet than the common mango of India, but nothing equal to that of Bombay. The fields are irrigated by the Persian wheel, worked by camels or bullocks; and the

quantity of garden produce raised shows the capabilities of the soil. Grain is not cultivated owing to the want of encouragement, and heavy taxation.* Such is the cause alleged; but I am disposed to think that the want of capital is the great drawback. The greater portion of the gardens belong to Hindoos, who have no wish to turn their attention to agriculture, the profits of which are so precarious; and those whose inclinations would lead them to do so have not the means. A small tax of Rs. 7-8-0 is levied on each enclosure annually; but some are altogether exempt, the owners being either Fakeers or Gosaens, unable to pay, or men of influence, who have had grants of the land. Their number altogether does not exceed twenty-five, each having one well.

Harbour.—The port and harbour have been so often described that it is unnecessary to enter into a detail of it here. I shall merely remark that the amount of tonnage is estimated at about 2,500 candies. The fishing-boats are upwards of 100 in number, and the revenue raised on their produce forms a most important item in the collections, averaging nearly Rs. 12,000 annually. The size of the larger vessels varies from 50 to 125 candies. The Dhingees are the quickest sailers, and best sea-boats, notwithstanding their unpromising appearance. During the last year they generally performed the passage to and from Bombay in half the time of the Koteas and Bombay vessels. Harbour dues are not levied.

Revenue (Amount of Revenue, Statement No. 1 A; Collections from Merchants, No. 1 D).—These statements exhibit at one view the amount of revenue derived from Kurachee for twelve months, under the different heads in which it is entered in the public records. The official year commences in Zilhuj, instead of Mohurum; but the books are only closed biennially, when accountants are sent from Hyderabad for the purpose. The collection from merchants includes the sums paid by traders, of whatever caste, on imports and exports. From strangers the amount of custom dues is at once levied, but townspeople are only called on to settle their accounts monthly: a calculation is then made of the charges against them; one or two annas per rupee is struck off, that the account may remain an open one, and the balance is paid, two-thirds in the Kora or Hyderabad, and one-third in the Kashanee rupee, by hoondees drawn on their agents at Hyderabad. The sum struck off is carried to account as a debt due by the merchant to the State. On the arrival of the accountants, the books are thoroughly examined, and the balance, together with any additions they think fit to make, on the plea of the goods having been undervalued, is now levied. This custom

* I am not aware what amount would be taken were grain grown, but believe that near Tatta the Government share is three-fifths.

is intended as a check on the Collectors, who might otherwise be disposed to favour individuals, and at first sight seems favourable to the merchants; but they complain of it, as rendering their profits or losses uncertain for so long a period, besides subjecting them to the necessity of purchasing the good-will of the examiners. The chief articles on which these duties are levied, imported from Bombay and other ports, are noticed in Statement G. The goods intended for Upper Sind and Afghanistan are invariably sent by the land route to Sehwan, as being far preferable to the tedious voyage up the Indus. During the time the force has been encamped here, large Kafilas have been passing up and down that road, even during the driest season, and the greater portion of the supplies for the consumption of the town and camp have been brought by it. Camels usually traverse the distance in eighteen or twenty days, and reach Shikarpoor in as many more, while by the river, boats are sometimes from two to three months on the voyage.

Opium.—The amount of revenue averages upwards of Rs. 1,00,000 annually (Table C), with a charge for collection and government of Rs. 7,000 on it; but the stoppage of the opium trade (the account of which was kept quite distinct) has entailed a heavy loss on the State. The transit duties on it at Kurachee also exceeded Rs. 1,00,000 yearly, and in A. H. 1245 (A. D. 1830) amounted to no less than Rs. 1,50,000. It was brought from Palee and the Rajpoot States *viâ* Hyderabad to this town, and hence exported to Damaun. The duty levied here was Rs. 100, and five venetians (of Rs. 5-8-0 each) per camel-load calculated to weigh 8 pukka maunds. The drug was usually packed in leather bags, covered with felt, but a very small portion being in boxes.

Indigo, from Mooltan and the northward, is an important article of export, but the heavy duties exacted on its transit through Sind limits the quantity.

Loongees, manufactured here and at Tatta, *Saltpetre*, *Assafœtida*, *Dyes*, and *Hides*, may also be enumerated. At present, however, cargo of any description is difficult to be obtained, and many boats have sailed for Bombay in ballast.

Wool has been lately in great demand. That exported here is much inferior in quality to the Shah Beelawul fleeces, but the best quality is shipped from the port of Gwaddel, in Mekran. The merchants employ Hindoo agents, who purchase it for them in small quantities in the hills from the shepherds. The produce of each sheep is twisted into bands, each weighing from half to one seer; about twenty of large size may be bought for a rupee. Thana, on the road between Kurachee and Sehwan, is the depôt for the purchases made in that part of the country. The price there averages from Rs. 12 to Rs. 14 per maund. When a sufficient quantity is collected, a Kafila is sent off, and a tax of

2 tungas, called Nuth, is levied on each camel-load. The greater portion of the Shah Beelawul wool is sent to Sonmeeanee, at a cost there of from Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 per Sonmeeanee maund, which is 4 seers larger than that of Kurachee. About 5,000 or 6,000 maunds are annually exported, the duty being about 6 kuseeras per rupee's worth for merchants, and 2 dokras for others. The produce of Mekran, sent through Gwaddel, is by far the finest in size and quality, and much care is taken in preparing it for the market. The sheep are washed, wherever circumstances admit, as often as twice a month, and in the most unfavourable situations are invariably well scoured previous to their being sheared. The price I have not been able correctly to ascertain, but it has risen considerably during the last few months.

Mahal Chubootra (No. 2 A).—Under this head are entered all the payments made in ready money for customs on articles brought into or taken out of the town. The account is kept in a book called Sujahee (that for monthly payments is termed Ittalay), from which I have made extracts (D No. 2). All persons entering the town with goods go, as a matter of course, to the Chubootra, where their packages are examined; nor are they allowed to pass out without a certificate of having paid the customary dues on their purchases. It will be observed that this tax is levied on all articles "for private consumption," at the rate of 3 dokras per rupee's worth on everything *except* grain, on which four and a half are taken. The amount thus collected being in small sums, it is kept in Tungas,* valued at 24 tungas and 2 kuseeras per Kashanee rupee. If the value of the goods exceeds Rs. 5, although the full charge for customs is levied, an entry under that head at the rate of Rs. 5-4-0 per cent. only is made. Another column is then added, in which Koosoor Wutao, or difference of exchange, at the rate of 9 per cent. is noted; the balance which may remain is carried to the credit of a charitable fund for the support of Fakeers and Gosavees. After their demands have been satisfied, the remainder is divided into three shares, two of which are the perquisites of the Amils, and the third is carried to the credit of the State.

Tax on Articles weighed, including Sheernee (No. 3 A).—Customs on everything weighed at the Chubootra is here entered under the heads of Choongee and Minwun, the former being levied in *kind*, and the latter in *cash*. In the explanatory statement (No. 3 D) I have particularized the rates at which these charges are made on the different articles therein specified. It is usual for the merchant to be allowed to purchase back the quantity taken as Choongee, at the bazar rate; but his doing so depends on the pleasure of the Collectors. Sheernee is the

* The value fluctuates according to the rate of exchange in the bazar, and is now 26 tungas.

sum paid by the weighing man to Government for his situation, and has been but lately introduced, to increase the revenue under this head, and that of measures.

Slaves.—In this column, the dues exacted from Nakodas of boats, who speculate in a small way on their own account, or bring supplies for their families, as well as payments made by petty traders, are noted. It also includes the important article of slaves, on whom a tax of Rs. 5-8-0 per head is levied; Rs. 5 only being carried to account, and the balance disposed of as noticed under the head Mahal Chubootra. Muscat is the port from which they are all brought to Kurachee, and hence sent up the country for sale. They are divided into two classes, the Siddees or Africans, and Hubshees or Abyssinians. Sometimes a Georgian is brought down, but only on a private order, their price being too high to admit of speculations being made in them. The Siddees are mostly all children when imported, grown up persons being considered more likely to run away. Their price at Muscat varies from 15 to 30 dollars, according to their strength and appearance. The slave merchants tell me that boats are sent from that port down the coast of Africa, with cargoes of coarse cloths and dates; that they visit certain places where the children are collected, in expectation of their arrival. One of the crew is sent on shore, and he places on the beach the quantity of goods he considers equivalent to the value of a slave. If thought sufficient, a child is brought to him, and the package taken away; and so on, until they have obtained the number they require. Girls are brought in greater numbers than boys, and both are sold here at from Rs. 60 to Rs. 100 each. The latter are said to be extremely intelligent at learning any trade; and the fishermen, who own a good many, state that they make active and bold sailors. From 600 to 700 is the number annually imported, of which about three-fourths are girls; the Hubshee females are generally purchased at a more mature age, as mistresses for men of rank. The features of those I have seen were good, but their complexions rather dark, or inclining to a copper colour. Perhaps 30 or 40 may be landed in each year; but as their cost is high (from Rs. 170 to Rs. 250, according to their good looks), and their health rather delicate, few like to lay out money on them. The price of Hubshee lads is upwards of Rs. 100; but they are seldom for sale, as they are not brought down unless on a commission from some great man, who wishes to bring them up in his family. Only three or four arrived here during the past year. It is the interest of a master to treat his slave kindly, where so many opportunities exist for desertion; and I have not heard of many instances of tyranny in this neighbourhood. They appear, in general, contented with their lot, are most of them married, and certainly cannot complain of being overworked. A few have,

indeed, sought shelter in our camp; but they were the property of poor people residing at Beyla, or in that vicinity, and chiefly complained of a want of food as having led to their first quarrelling with their masters, and then running away when punished. From the intercourse between Sindians and Siddee women, a race called Guda has sprung up. They are equally slaves with their mothers, and may be bought or sold at will. The tribe of Beeroees also, who dwell near Beyla, make a practice of selling their children when in want; which appears to be generally the case, as no difficulty is experienced in obtaining them whenever required. Hindoos prefer them as household servants, in consequence of their being better looking than Siddees, and able to speak the Sindian language.

Tax on Articles measured, including Sheernee (No. 5 A, No. 5 D).—Grain, of whatever description, is subject to this tax. When brought in large quantities, it is customary to allow the merchant to declare the quantity contained in each package, and not to open it, unless doubt should arise as to the contents. Choongee at the rate of 2 cassas per kurwar is taken from the wholesale dealer, and it is again subject to a tax called Luwazimu Moondeean, when purchased by retailers, of 1 tunga per moondeea; but this is not levied if the grain is not for *private use*.

Mahal Meer Boree, Fish, &c. (A No. 6, D No. 6).—The revenue realized under this head amounts to the large sum of Rs. 12,000, as shown in the statement. Although the customs on wood for building, or to be used as fuel, are included, yet fish is the source whence the greater portion is derived. On the return of the fishing-boats to the harbour, the cargo is landed in the presence of a Government servant, and the number counted: if less than *sixty*, a *fourth* part is taken as customs; but if more, *one-sixth* only is demanded. The owner is allowed to carry the whole away, and, at the end of the month, attends at the Chubootra with his account. The total being added up, he is called on to pay their value at something *above* the market price, as a set-off to the credit he has had. In the case of fish brought into the market for sale, each person is obliged to show the basket-load to the Amil, who records his or her name, with a memorandum of the supposed value. After disposing of them, *one-fourth* of the amount realized is at once paid. The Amil is entitled to about 5 per cent. in kind, as his perquisite, in addition to this sum. The food of the fisherman, like that of most poor persons at Kurachee, is composed of dates and fish, with the addition of a little rice;* while that of the hill people is almost entirely milk and curds; the berry of a bush called Beera, dried and ground up, being used as a substitute for, or mixed with grain.

* Dates are generally 1 dokra per seer; rice double the price.

Great quantities of the larger sorts of fish, dried and salted for exportation, have an additional tax levied on them in that state. Their value may be imagined, when I mention that as much as Rs. 600 was given for a boat to take a cargo to Bombay, late last season. Sharkfins and maws are prepared here in considerable numbers for the China market; but little or no demand is made for them in Sind. Another item to be remarked on in this column is the tax levied on the crews of boats belonging to the port. The amount is equal to nearly *one-tenth* of their monthly wages, and is exacted each trip.

Contracts (No. 10 E, No. 10 A.)—The expense attending the necessary establishment of Amils and sepoys, to collect the revenue on the items under these heads, has induced the Government to put them up for sale. They are disposed of, as usual, to the highest bidder, for one year; but should a more advantageous offer present itself in the mean time, no scruple is made of depriving the contractor of it, unless he chooses to keep it on at the increased rate. Payment is exacted at the end of each month.

Liquor, &c.—The first to be noticed is that on liquor. Goor is the ingredient from which the spirit is extracted; but dates are sometimes added, although they are said to give an unpleasant flavour. The spirit is fiery, and disagreeable to a European palate, but the Natives prefer it to all our liquors except brandy.

Government furnishes the vessels for preparing it in, as also firewood, the coppers for boiling, and the colouring mixture: 25 or 30 seers of Khund Sujah (Goor) is calculated to give 10 or 12 seers of good spirits. Retail dealers purchase it of the contractor, and then dispose of it wherever they choose.

Gambling-house.—The gambling-house is a Government building, where alone games of chance are allowed. If discovered anywhere else, the players are punished, and their money confiscated. I am told that the place is pretty well frequented, mostly, as may be supposed, by Mahomedans. The contractors' Amil levies a tax of 3 dokras on each rupee won. He is always ready to advance small sums to persons whose fortune has been adverse, being certain of obtaining the assistance of the Government officers if any difficulty is made in repaying him.

Tax on Cattle (No. 12 A, No. 12 E).—This item is levied from the owers of camels and bullocks, who earn their livelihood as carriers. Of the former there are about 160, and 80 of the latter, in the town and suburbs. The camels are poor, and mangy in appearance, which is accounted for by the bad forage they subsist on; and although they carry heavy loads for a short distance, they pine away and die if sent into the interior. The weight carried by the bullocks is incredible. During one of our changes of ground, one was seen with twelve dozen

of beer and a bag of rice on his back. They are only employed in carrying goods to and from the bunder; the poorer Sindians, who live in the jungle, keeping donkeys to bring their wood and grass to market. *One-eighth* of the sum received for the daily labour of their beasts is the amount taken from the owners; but when employed by us, they have successfully resisted the contractor's demand.

Chout Shurafee (No. 13 A, No. 13 E).—The contractor for this tax has the privilege of shroffing all the coin in circulation, in the town and neighbourhood. From the resident merchants he receives no regular allowance, but visits them at the Dewallee, when it is customary to make him a trifling present. Others are charged 1 tunga per hundred rupees examined. The sum levied on goldsmiths, from the profits of their labour, is *one-fourth*. Each individual is obliged to enter on his books the amount of his daily gains, and, at the monthly examination by the contractor, to pay at that rate.

Tax on Brokers, Ivory-turners, &c. (No. 14 A, No. 14 F.)—The tax levied on brokers, butchers, ivory bangle-turners, cotton-cleaners, makers of culinary utensils, as also that paid by the person who purchases the hides of all animals dying a natural death (a distinct trade from that of the regular tanners, and not considered so respectable), is here noticed. The rent of two houses belonging to the State, one occupied by the treasurer, and the other by a cap-maker, is also included. The sum laid down is paid by the headman of each trade, and then divided among themselves.

From 120 to 150 Mahomedans and Hindoos are employed in the manufacture of Loongees, Mushroo, Gool Budam (which latter is all silk), coarse cloth, &c. The former are sent to Bombay, Muscat, and also into the interior of Sind, where they find a ready sale: the latter are mostly purchased here. The Loongees are usually composed of twenty-four threads of different colours, cotton and silk alternately. The colours of the mushroo are very brilliant, and do not fade by washing. A tax of 3 dokras is paid monthly by each loom. About ten or fifteen persons work raw silk on muslin or other cloth, in flowers and fancy patterns. The women are very fond of them as Doputtas, but those got up at Tatta, where females generally make them, are by far preferred. These persons are not taxed, nor are the cap-makers, of whom a great number are to be seen at work in the town. Those manufactured at Hyderabad are said to be most tasty in appearance. Nine pots from each kiln of earthen baked vessels are taken by the Government, and used by its servants; but the potters are not otherwise taxed. Dyers are exempt altogether, as are the mills worked by camels, where the greater portion of the wheat for consumption is ground; but oil mills give 1½ seer of their produce monthly.

I have annexed a list of the Government civil servants, as their number is not, like that of the military, specified in the statement of charges. The table of weights, measures, and currency (Table F) has been drawn up with care. The list of imports and exports (Table G) has been furnished by the leading merchants (to one of them, Wissendass Shet Mooltanee, I am indebted for most of the information herein recorded, and for the whole of the revenue statements), and will be found to include every article of importance. Within the last six months, large investments for Afghanistan have been sent by the Sonmeeanee route, owing to the great difficulty of procuring camels here; the demand for them at Shikarpoor and Sukkur, by our troops, having almost stopped the trade to the interior, from Kurachee. Many hundred bales of goods, destined for Upper Sind, are now lying in the town, for want of carriage.

The last two months of the official year not having yet expired, I have, rather than delay this Report, estimated the probable amount of collections and charges for them; but as the biennial settlement will be made this year, I shall take an early opportunity of forwarding the correct amount, together with the total of the distinct collections made in Rubee-ool-Awul (June), Rubee-ool-Sanee (July), and Jumadee-ool-Awul (August), which I have not hitherto been able to obtain; as also a statement of the sums which may be recovered from the townspeople, on the re-examination of the accounts.

MEMORANDUM EXPLANATORY OF THE ANNEXED TABULAR STATEMENTS.

STATEMENT A shows the Amount of Revenue derived by the Ameers of Sind from the Town and Port of Kurachee, for the Twelve Months intervening between February 1839 and January 1840.

STATEMENT B shows the Amount of Charges on the Revenue during the same period.

STATEMENT C is an Abstract of Revenue and Charges.

STATEMENT D is explanatory of the different Items shown under the head of Collections, being Extracts from the various Records.

STATEMENT E exhibits the Amount of Revenue derived from Contracts, for Twelve Months.

STATEMENT F is a Table of Measures, Weights, and Currency.

STATEMENT G is a List of Imports and Exports.

STATE

Showing the Amount of Revenue derived by the Ameers of Sind from the Town and

January

Months, A. H. 1254–55 (A. D. 1839–40).	Collections. From Merchants.			Mahal Chubootra.			Tax on Articles weighed, including that of Sheernee.			Mahal Bunder.			Tax on Articles measured, including that of Dhunnee.			Mahal Meer Boree, Fish, &c.		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	T.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	T.
Zilhuj, 1254 (February, 1839) ...	5,661	12	0	115	10	436	77	1	0	107	12	0	347	4	0	343	13	407½
Mohurum, 1255 (March)	7,540	8	0	98	3	298	81	12	0	91	0	0	207	0	0	667	3	178½
Sufur (April).....	13,149	0	0	259	13	749	96	0	0	64	0	0	611	10	0	2,206	4	470½
Rubee-ool-Awul.. (May)	*			.....			.....			.....			.....			.....		
Rubee-ool-Sanee.. (June)	*			.....			.....			.....			.....			.....		
Jumadee-ool-Awul (July)	*			.....			.....			.....			.....			.....		
Jumadee-ool-Sanee (August)...	3,294	13	0	322	0	1,527½	162	8	0	15	0	0	443	8	0	550	10	1,729½
Rujub (September)..	10,611	0	0	352	9	1,116½	137	9	0	79	0	0	428	0	0	1,027	9	1,131½
Shaban (October) ..	14,489	0	0	272	0	1,115	142	8	6	236	13	0	320	0	0	1,753	4	398½
Ramzan (November).	8,604	8	0	256	3	841½	103	0	0	480	7	0	240	8	0	1,992	9	535
Shawal (December)	†			.....			.....			.....			.....			.....		
Zilkad (January, 1840).....	†			.....			.....			.....			.....			.....		

* The items for these months have not come to hand.

† The official year not having expired, the amount for these

MENT A,

Port of Kurachee, for the Twelve Months intervening between February 1839 *and* 1840.

| Contracts. | | |

STATE

Showing the Amount of Charges on the Revenues of Kurachee, for Four Months, com-

CIVIL

Months, A. H. 1254-55.	To Syud Goolook Shah, an Allowance for reading the Koran of Rs. 2 monthly.	To Syud Noorwool Shah, for reading the Koran, a stipend of Kora Rs. 7-6-0 monthly.	To Syud Kootoob Shah, for reading the Koran, Kora Rs. 15 monthly.	To Hajee Ali Reekha, as Collector for Nuseer Khan and Noor Mahomed, Rs. 35 monthly, and Rs. 32-12-0 Horse Allowance.	To Togehund, as Collector for Meer Mahomed, Rs. 35 monthly.	Dewan Mookchund, as Collector for Meer Soobdar, Nadiree Rs. 30.	Two Moonshees who keep the Books and Correspondence, at Rs. 24 monthly.	Two Amils at the Chubootra, at Rs. 5 monthly.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Zilhuj, 1254, Mohurum & Sufur, 1255 (Feb., March, & April, 1839)	6 0 0	17 11 0	36 0 0	203 4 0	105 0 0	108 10 0	72 0 0	12 0 0
Rubee-ool-Awul (May, 1839) ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

MILITARY

Months, A. H. 1254-55.	To Dewan Moolchund, One-fourth of the Killedarship on the part of Meer Soobdar, Rs. 14-12-0 monthly.	To Hajee Ali Reekha, three-fourths of the Killedarship, Rs. 44-4-0 monthly.	To Jam Meer Ali, for 20 Jokeens and 10 Karmatee Baloochees, to guard the Fort, Rs. 120 monthly.	To 15 Moojuhud Noomurdees, Rs. 30-5-0 monthly.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Zilhuj, 1254, Mohurum & Sufur, 1255 (Feb., March, & April, 1839)	35 0 0	107 0 0	283 0 0	91 0 0
Rubee-ool-Awul (May, 1839) ..	....	....	....	....

MENT B,

mencing Zilhuj 1254 (*February* 1839), *& ending Rubee-ool-Awul* 1255 (*May* 1839).

CHARGES.

Amils and Sepoys at the Bunder, Rs. 10 monthly.			Amils and Sepoys at the Meer Boree, Rs. 12 monthly.			The Treasurer, Rs. 7-8-0 monthly.			Amils over the Mockees, Rs. 3 monthly.			Sepoys at the Chuboodra, Rs. 7 monthly.			Amils and Sepoys at the Shor and Sheeroen Gates, Rs. 9 monthly.			Stationery (no fixed sum is charged, but a Billis drawn up for the amount expended).			Oil for the Tombs at Peer Mungah, and the Temple at the Bunder, 2½ seers monthly each.			Total Kashanee Rupees.		
Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
45	9	6	28	13	0	18	0	0	7	3	0	16	12	6	21	9	9	20	8	0	5	0	0	726	1	0
....			.....			....			.....			....			....			....			.....			232	5	0

CHARGES.

To 4 Golundauze, Rs. 20 monthly.			To Syuds Nakoda, Jemedar of Boatmen, Rs. 17 monthly.			Total Kashanee Rupees.			Civil Total, Ijara Khurch, as above.			Grand Total.		
Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
60	0	0	51	0	0	627	0	0	726	1	0	1,353	1	0
....			....			270	4	0	232	5	0	502	9	0

STATEMENT

Showing the Amount of Charges on the Revenues of Kurachee, for Eight Months,

CIVIL

June 1839 to January 1840.	To Syud Goolook Shah, for reading the Koran, Rs. 2 monthly.	To Syud Noorwool Shah, for reading the Koran, Kora Rs. 7-6-0.	To Syud Kootoob Shah, Kora Rs. 15.	Hajee Ali Reekhs, One-fourth as Collector.	Dewan Tegchund, One-fourth as Collector.	Akhoon Dadoo, One-fourth as Collector.	Dewan Kurumchund, One-fourth as Collector.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Rubee-ool-Sanee (June, 1839)	2 0 0	5 13 0	11 13 6	33 11 6	35 0 0	19 12 0	34 12 6
Jumadee-ool-Awul (July)	2 0 0	5 13 0	11 13 6	33 11 6	35 0 0	19 12 0	34 12 6
Jumadee-ool-Sanee (August).....	2 0 0	5 13 0	11 13 6	33 11 6	35 0 0	19 12 0	34 12 6
Rujub (September).....	2 0 0	5 13 0	11 13 6	33 11 6	35 0 0	19 12 0	34 12 6
Shaban (October)	2 0 0	5 13 0	11 13 6	33 11 6	35 0 0	19 12 0	34 12 6
Ramzan (November)	2 0 0	5 13 0	11 13 6	33 11 6	35 0 0	19 12 0	34 12 6
Shawal (December)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Zilkad (January, 1840)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....

MILITARY

Months, 1255.	To Nuwab Zain-oolab-deen, Three-fourths of Killedarship, Rs. 107-6-3, Horse Allowance Rs. 71-14-0.	To four Gohundauze, at Rs. 5 each.	To Jam Meer Ali, for Jokeeas, and Beloo-chees, Kora Rs. 120.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Rubee-ool-Sanee (June, 1839)	239 4 3	20 0 0	94 13 0
Jumadee-ool-Awul (July)	239 4 3	20 0 0	94 13 0
Jumadee-ool-Sanee (August)	239 4 3	20 0 0	94 13 0
Rujub (September).....	239 4 3	20 0 0	94 13 0
Shaban (October)	239 4 3	20 0 0	94 13 0
Ramzan (November).....	239 4 3	20 0 0	94 13 0
Shawal (December)	....	....	....
Zilkad (January, 1840).....	....	....	....

B (*continued*).

commencing Rubee-ool-Sanee (*June* 1839), *and ending Zilkad*, 1255 (*January* 1840).

CHARGES.

Two Moonshees.			Amils at the Chubootra.			Amil at the Meer Boree.			Treasurer.			Amil over the Mochees.			Amils at the Shor and Sheereen Gates.			Oil for the Tombs at Peer Mungah.			Oil for the Hindoo Temple at the Bunder.			Stationery.			Total.		
Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
24	0	0	3	15	0	9	8	0	5	15	0	2	6	0	7	2	0	0	14	6	0	14	6	7	8	0	205	1	0
24	0	0	3	15	0	9	8	0	5	15	0	2	6	0	7	2	0	0	14	6	0	14	6	7	8	0	205	1	0
24	0	0	3	15	0	9	8	0	5	15	0	2	6	0	7	2	0	0	14	6	0	14	6	7	8	0	205	1	0
24	0	0	3	15	0	9	8	0	5	15	0	2	6	0	7	2	0	0	14	6	0	14	6	7	8	0	205	1	0
24	0	0	3	15	0	9	8	0	5	15	0	2	6	0	7	2	0	0	14	6	0	14	6	7	8	0	205	1	0
24	0	0	3	15	0	9	8	0	5	15	0	2	6	0	7	2	0	0	14	6	0	14	6	7	8	0	205	1	0
....			....			....			....			....			....			....			....			....			410	2	0
....			....			....			....			....			....			....			....								

CHARGES.

To Moojulud Noomurdeea.			To Nakoda Synah, Jemedar of Boatmen.			To Dewan Kurumchund, One-fourth of Killedarship.			Total Kashanee Rupees.			Total Ijara Khurch, as above.			Grand Total.		
Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
31	12	6	17	0	0	11	10	0	415	7	0	205	1	0	620	8	0
31	12	6	17	0	0	11	10	0	415	7	0	205	1	0	620	8	0
31	12	6	17	0	0	11	10	0	415	7	0	205	1	0	620	8	0
31	12	6	17	0	0	11	10	0	415	7	0	205	1	0	620	8	0
31	12	6	17	0	0	11	10	0	415	7	0	205	1	0	620	8	0
31	12	6	17	0	0	10	0	0	415	7	0	205	1	0	620	8	0
....			....			....			830	14	0	410	2	0	1,241	0	0
....			....			....											

STATE

Abst

REVENUES.

Hijree Year.	For what Months.	Total.			Grand Total.		
		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
1254.	Zilhuj (February, 1839)	6,944	9	0			
1255.	Mohurum (March)	8,960	1	0			
„	Sufur (April).....	16,688	13	0			
„	Rubee-ool-Awul (May).....	7,555	13	0			
„	Rubee-ool-Sanee (June).....	2,887	14	0			
„	Jumadee-ool-Awul (July)....	2,505	13	0			
„	Jumadee-ool-Sanee (August)..	4,907	1	0			
„	Rujub (September)	12,987	11	0			
„	Shaban (October)	17,527	12	6			
„	Ramzan (November).....	11,086	0	0			
„	Shawal (December)	15,000	0	0			
„	Zilkad (January, 1840) ...						
					1,07,115	8	0

Revenues .....

Charges.....

Profit to the State....

MENT C.

ract.

CHARGES.

Hijree Year.	For what Months.	Total.			Grand Total.		
		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
1254.	Zilhuj (February, 1839) ..						
1255.	Mohurum (March)	1,353	1	0			
,,	Sufur (April)						
,,	Rubee-ool-Awul (May).....	502	9	0			
,,	Rubee-ool-Sanee (June)	620	8	0			
,,	Jumadee-ool-Awul (July)....	620	8	0			
,,	Jumadee-ool-Sanee (August)..	620	8	0			
,,	Rujub (September)	620	8	0			
,,	Shaban (October).....	620	8	0			
,,	Ramzan (November)	620	8	0			
,,	Shawal (December)	1,241	0	0			
,,	Zilkad (January, 1840)....						
					6,819	10	0

..... Rs. 1,07,115 8 0
..... 6,819 10 0

..... Rs. 1,00,295 14 0

STATE

Explanatory of the different Items shown under the Head

NAMES OF THE ITEMS.				
1. Collections from Merchants.	Under this head is entered the amount collected from merchants of Hyderabad Rupee, and one-third in the Kashanee currency.			
2. Mahal Chubootra.	Name of the Person taxed.	Where coming from.	Where going to.	Names of Articles purchased or for Sale.
* MEMO.—24 Tungas 2 Kuseeras are equal to 1 Kashanee Rupee; 8 Kuseeras are equal to 1 Tunga; 2 Dokras are equal to 1 Tunga.	Long	.....	The Hubb River.	Grain .....
	Samas Gudo ...	.....	Gharra	Cotton .....
	Khuer Ali Suraz.	.....	Out of the Town.	2 Goat-skins .....
				½ Sheep-skin .....
	Abdoola Suraz...	.....	Ditto	½ Hide .....
	Kheerma, Hindoo	.....	Gharra	4 pieces of Cloth ...
				Gushneez .....
				2 Bullock Bells ...
* At the then rate of exchange.	Deeo, Hindoo ...	The Hills.....	.....	Ghee .....
	Anunt	The Country..	.....	7 Mats.....
				4 Korees of Bark Rope.
3. Tax on Articles weighed, including Sheernee.	Name of the Owner.	Name of the Broker.	Name of the Purchaser.	Names of Articles.
MEMO.—Each Poteea is equal to 3 Kurachee Maunds.	Akhoond Eessa..	Megoos ...	Aeedass	Dates, Kuteef ...
	Bhoojoomul.....	Lalmundass		
	Moolchund	Wisendass ...	Nechuldass ...	5 Packages of Sindian Tobacco ...
				5 Pots of Dates, Phurud .....
	Asamired.....	Himself	Moola Kuehee.	2 Sokas or Dubbas of Oil .....
				Cinnamon .....

MEMO.—Choongee at the rate of 9 annas weight per maund, and Minwun at the rate of 5 kuseeras per maund, drug); 5, Black Pepper; 6, Hubela (a dye); 7, Hijeeree (a drug).

Half a dokra in weight and half a dokra in cash is levied on—1, Cinnamon; 2, Cloves; 3, Nutmegs; 4, Mace; Choongee at the rate of 2 annas weight, and Minwun at the rate of 2 annas cash, is levied on Copper.

MENT D,

of Collections, being Extracts from the various Records.

REMARKS.

all tribes on Imports and Exports. Two-thirds of the sum paid by them is levied in the Kora, or

Value of them.	Total Value.	Luwazimu Fonjdaree.	Customs.	Total Amount levied.	Remarks.
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
2 0 0	2 0 0	.....	0 4 4	0 4 4	A tax of 3 dokras is levied from the purchasers on each rupee's worth of goods bought in the town; but on grain 4½ dokras are taken. This alludes to *consumers*, not *retailers*.
1 0 0	1 0 0	.....	0 0 4	0 0 4	
0 12 0	.....	0 1 0	.....	.....	
3 8 0	4 4 0	.....	0 6 3	0 7 3	
2 4 0	4 4 0	.....	0 3 3	0 3 3	
6 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	* Only 9 tungas of this amount are entered as Customs, being at the rate of Rs. 5-4-0 per cent. on all sums above Rs. 5. The excess charged is noted as Koosoor Matoo or exchange at 9 per cent. The balance is carried to the credit of a charitable fund for the support of Fakeers and Gosaens.
1 8 0	.....	.....	.....	..... *	
1 0 0	8 8 0	.....	0 12 7	0 12 7	
2 0 0	2 0 0	.....	0 3 0	0 3 0	
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
.....	.....	.....	0 1 5	0 1 5	

Weight.	Value of each Poteea, at the rate of Rs. 10½.	Choongee on each Maund.	Total Weight taken as Choongee.	Value of Choongee.	Minwun on each Maund.		Customs.	Remarks.
Mds. s. a.	Rs. a. p.	Mds. s. a.	Mds. s. a.	Rs. a. p.	Mds. s.	T. K.	Rs. T. K.	
24 0 0 12 0 0	126 0 0	0 0 9	0 19 2	1 1 0	1 0	0 5	0 22 4	
8 0 0	5 2 0	.....	.....	.....	1 0	0 5	0 9 7	Choongee is levied *in kind*; Minwun *in cash*.
7 32 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 0	0 5		
5 0 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 0	0 5	0 4 3	
0 10 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	0 1	0 2		

is levied on the following articles:—1, Dates, wet and dry; 2, Bhang, Kunobs; 3, Sooparee Nuts; 4, Dosa (a

5, Raw Silk; 6, Gool Masufur; 7, Pistachio Nuts; 8, Soap.

STATEMENT

4. Mahal Bunder.	Name of the Person Taxed.	From what Town or Port.	Names of Articles.	Number.
	Synah Nakhwa ...	Muscat.....	Sookree	.....
	Ulana Nakhwa ...	Bombay	Madapollams.....	1 piece.....
			Bhoolkaree.....	1 piece.....
			Rezkee	.....
	Yacoob Mahomed..	Muscat.....	Slaves	Five .....

5. Tax on Articles measured, including Sheernee.	Name of the Dealer.	To whom sold.	Names of Articles.	Quantity. M.	C.
	Alumchund	Hurree, shopkeeper.	Rice, red	2	10
		Gola, ditto ...	Ditto, Sindian	3	15
		Wasunt, ditto ...	Ditto, do.	2	10
		Deeo, for private use.	Ditto, do.	0	5
		Gyan, ditto ..	Ditto, do.	0	2½
		Rumzan, ditto ...	Ditto, do.	0	2½

MEMO.—The grain purchased by the three persons for private use is not liable to Moondeea, and the quantity sold at the same time, the amount of Customs is entered under one total.

6. Mahal Meer Boree, Fish, &c.	Name of the Owner.	Where going.	Whence arrived.	Articles.	Actual Value. Rs.	a.	p.
	Goolam, Khwaja.	To the Hills...	.....	Dried Fish	4	0	0
	Banoo, Khwaja..	.....	Kunjur	Rung Kunra, a dye for leather.	One load ...		
	Synah, Moola ...	.....					
	Datoo, Moola ...	Bought in the Bazar	Dawoo.	Fish, Sovee, with Fins	125		
				Fish, Dhow ..	4 baskets full.		

Wood for building : on each rupee's worth, 2 tungas 4 kuseeras;

Tax levied on Boats' Crews on the

Crew.	Tax levied on each individual. Rs.	T.	K.
Nakoda or Commander	1	12	1
Syrang or Boatswain	1	1	0
Bhandaree or Cook.....	0	22	5
Boheeree or Seamen.....	0	18	0

D (*continued*).

Value.	Customs taken.	Customs entered in the Books.	Remarks.
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
2 0 0	.....	0 1 4	
4 0 0 3 4 0 1 0 0	0 8 4	0 6 4	The balance credited to the Charitable Fund for the support of Fakeers and Gosaens.
.....	27 8 0	25 0 0	Rs. 5-8-0 is charged on each Slave of either sex, whether Hubshee or Siddee.

Value of Rice per Kurwar.	Choongee on each Kurwar.	Value of Choongee taken.			Moondeea Luwazimu, at the rate of 1 Tunga per Moondeea.			Total Customs.				Remarks.
Rs. a. p.	M. C.	M. C.	Rs.	a.	T. K.	Rs.	T.	K.	Rs.	a.	T.	K.	
72 0 0	0 2	0 1½	1	12	9 2	0	7	0	1	12	16	2	The Luwazimu Moondeea is only levied on Retailers.

they bought is therefore only estimated in Cassas (vide Table of Weights and Measures). The whole having been

Government Value.	Amil's Perquisite.	Balance remaining.	Total.	Tax per Rupee.	Customs.	Amount entered.	Remarks.
Rs. T. K.	No.	No.	Rs. T. K.	Rs. T. K.	Rs. T. K.	Rs. T. K.	
5 0 0	.....	.....	5 0 0	0 5 0	0 20 0	0 18 6	If the number of Fish exceeds sixty, one-sixth are taken; and if less, one-fourth.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0 27 0	0 25 0	
.....	5	120	.....	One-sixth, Rs. 20	.....	.....	
0 16 0	.....	.....	.....	One-fourth, 4 tgs.	.....	.....	

on each boat-load of firewood, 1 tunga 4 kuseeras.

Departure of a Vessel from the Port.

Remarks.
This sum is levied each trip, but only on sea-going vessels, belonging to the port.

STATE

CON

Statement showing the Amount of Revenue

NAMES OF THE ITEMS.				PARTI
11. Liquor Contract, &c.	Vessel in which the Material is placed.	Quantity contained in it.	Quantity of Spirit extracted.	Customs on each Seer.
				Rs. a. p.
Spirits	Khoomb, or large earthen pot.	About 25 or 30 seers of Khund Sujah.	From 10 to 12 seers.	5 0 0
Gambling House	....	....	....	....

12. Tax on Cattle.	Name of the Owner.	Amount gained by him during the Day.
		Rs. T. K.
Bullocks and Camels.....	Medoo, Bullock-man ..	0 16 0

13. Chout Shurafee.	Name of the Goldsmith.	Amount gained by him during the Month.
		Rs. a. p.
	Puma	10 0 0

14. Tax on Weavers, Ivory-turners, &c.	Trades, &c.
	By a Khwaja .....
	Ivory Bangle-turners .....
	Butchers.....
	Brokers .....
	Culinary Utensil-makers .....
	Cotton-cleaners .....
	Rent of two houses .....

MENT E.

TRACTS.

derived from Contracts for Twelve Months.

CULARS.

Articles supplied by the Sirkar.	Estimated Expense of them.	Amount levied on each Rupee won.	Remarks.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Boiling coppers, fire-wood, the Khoomb, and Babool bark for colouring.	1 8 0	....	
....	....	0 0 3	3 dokras is levied on each rupee won.

Tax, One-eighth.	Remarks.
Rs. T. K.	
0 2 0	The owners of the cattle are obliged to report and pay daily to the Contractor, or subject themselves to a fine.

Tax, One-fourth.	Remarks.
Rs. a. p.	
2 8 0	The Goldsmiths' books are examined monthly by the Contractor. He also has the privilege of shroffing all coin.

Paid by each Monthly.	Remarks.
Rs. a. p.	
4 0 0	This person has the privilege of purchasing the hides of animals dying a natural death.
4 10 0	
4 14 0	
5 7 0	
0 13 0	Made of a mixed vessel, called Kunja.
0 3 0	
2 5 0	

STATEMENT

15. Tax on Weavers.	Monthly Tax on each Loom.		
	Rs.	T.	K.
	0	3	0

Loongees, Mushroo, Gool

CIVIL SERVANTS

Names of the Individuals.	Appointments they hold, and by whose Authority.	Where stationed.	Moonshees.
Mahomed Sadik Shah ...	3 shares of Nuwabship.		
Dewan Kurumchund ...	1 share of Nuwabship on the part of Meer Sobdar, and Collector for him also.		
Abbas Ali acts for Sadik Shah	Collector on the part of Meer Noor Mahomed.....		
Hajee Ali Reekha.....	Collector on the part of Meer Nuseer Khan.		
Dewan Tegchund.....	Collector on the part of Meer Mahomed.		
		Chubootra in the Town	2
		Custom House Bunder	...
		Meer Boree, or Fish Market.	...
		Shor Gate	...
		Sheereen Gate.....	...
		Mochee Poora.....	...
		At the Surkan Scale	...
		At the Weighing Stand	...
		Custom House Gates	...

E (*continued*).

Remarks.
Budam, &c. are manufactured, as also Coarse Cloths.

AT KURACHEE.

Treasurers.	Amils.	Sepoys.	Weighing Men.	Measuring Men.	Remarks.
1	2	2	3	...	
...	2	2	...	...	
...	2	1	...	...	
...	1	2	...	...	
...	1	4	...	...	
...	1	...	1	...	
...	1	...	1	...	
...	1	...	...	2	
...	...	...	...	...	

STATEMENT F.

TABLE OF MEASURES, WEIGHTS, AND CURRENCY, AT KURACHEE.

Measures.

4	Chouthaees	1	Patoee.
4	Patoees	1	Toee.
4	Toees	1	Kassee.
5	Kassees	1	Moondeea.
12	Moondeeas	1	Kurwar.
60	Kassees		

Weights.

4	Kuseeras	1	Dokra.
4½	Dokras	1	Ana.
72	Dokras	1	Seer, Pukka.
16	Anas		
40	Seers, Pukka	1	Maund.
3	Maunds	1	Poteea.
1	Bombay Maund	14	Kurachee Seers.
100	Bombay Maunds	35	Kurachee Maunds.
1	Surat Maund	18	Kurachee Seers.
100	Surat Maunds	45	Kurachee Maunds.
1	Bombay Candy	7	Kurachee Maunds.
1	Poreetee Maund	18	Seers and 6 Anas.
1	Hoonurwut	13¼	Seers.

Currency.

4	Kuseeras*	1	Dokra.
2	Dokras or 8 Kuseeras	1	Tunga.
26	Tungas	1	Kashanee Rupee.
21	Tungas	1	Kora Rupee.
5-8-0	Kashanee Rupees	1	Venetian, or Pootlee.
2-5-0	Ditto	1	Dollar.
1	Bombay Rupee is calculated to contain	11¾	Massas.
1	Kashanee ditto ditto	11	Massas.

* This is the present rate of exchange.

STATEMENT G.

LIST OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports from Bombay sent into Sind, the Punjaub, Khorasan, and Afghanistan.

Names.	How estimated.	Remarks.
Sugar, Petee „ Bengalee „ Mudhelee	In boxes weighing 1½ Kurachee maunds, or in bags.	Customs levied at the market rates.
Black Pepper	In Moras weighing 2 maunds 8 seers; per Surat candy, equal to 9 maunds of Kurachee.	
Iron and Steel, Calicut „ Roopa Shall „ Sheea Shall. „ Mungroree..	Steel in casks, weighing 1 Hoonurwut.	
Huldee, Bengalee „ Rajapoor	Per Bombay candy of 7 Kurachee maunds.	
Sendhora	In casks.	
Sufeeda	In casks weighing 2½ maunds.	
Zist	In casks and plates.	
Copper	In plates	Value declared by the owner.
Shungruf	In casks.	
Kulace	In plates or bars.	
Sooparee	In Moras weighing 2 maunds 8 seers.	
Soombha	9,000 in 1 Mora.	
Mace.		
Nutmegs.		
Cardamoms.		
Cloves.		
Cinnamon	In boxes weighing 30 seers.	
Cocoanuts	In Kupats and Sungnees	Valued at the market rate.
Copra	In Moras weighing 2 maunds 8 seers.	
Bukkum (a dye).		
Sandalwood.		
Piece Goods, Mulmul	In bales	The lighter sorts preferred.
„ Jamdanee, two sorts.		
„ Jacconet.		
Dimity.		
Longcloth.		
Madiapat.		
Mukmul.		
Putto, red, green, brown.		
Sahun.		
Duryabass Silk, red, yellow, green.		
Oormuk, three colours.		

Names.	How estimated.	Remarks.
Silk, Raw, Ginglanee	In boxes and bales, which are opened at the Chubootra.	
,, Charun.		
,, Baugh.		
,, Khurcheen.		
Beads	In boxes.	
Cochineal	In packages.	
Cotton	Per Poretee maund, equal to 18 annas.	Valued at the market rate.
Ghee.		
From Muscat and the Persian Gulf.		
Dates, wet and dry	In Kupats, about 2½ maunds.	
Zurphool.		
Almonds.		
Raisins.		
Dried Limes.		
Cowrees, and other Shells.		
Purija (a sweet grass).		
Dosa (a drug).		
Silk, Gylanee.		
Elephants' Tusks	Weighed separately.	
Copper in bars.		
Drugs of sorts.		
Kupats.		
Slaves.		
From Shikarpoor and the Northward.		
Opium.		
Tobacco.		
Cloth, plain and coloured.		
From Porebunder.		
Cotton.		
From Khorasan.		
Assafœtida	In leather bags.	
Zeera.		
Rodung (a dye).		
Pistachio Nuts.		
Wheat	In Boherees, weighing 7½ Kassees.	
Fruit.		

Exports to Bombay.

Names.	How estimated.	Remarks.
Indigo	In packages weighing 9½ maunds per camel-load.	
Muneet (a dye).		
Pistachio Nuts.		
Gool Pistag (a dye).		
Saltpetre.		
Sharkfins and Maws.		
Dried Fish.		
Loongees and Mushroo.		
To Muscat.		
Loongees and Mushroo.		
Indigo.		
Hides.		
Dried Fish.		
Oil.		

MEMORANDUM.—When a Kurachee boat loaded with cotton discharges part of its cargo before entering the port, for transmission to Dharajee or elsewhere, a calculation is made of what the amount of duties would have been, had the whole investment been landed here, and one-fourth of that sum only is remitted, however small the quantity brought to this bunder.

Ghee, formerly largely exported, is now brought from Bombay, the last famine having destroyed the greater portion of the cattle.

REPORT ON THE ROUTES

LEADING FROM

KURACHEE TO JERRUK;

ACCOMPANIED BY AN ACCOUNT OF THE TOWN OF JERRUK.

BY

CAPTAIN E. P. DELHOSTE,

16TH REGIMENT BOMBAY NATIVE INFANTRY,

ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER GENERAL N. D. A.

Submitted to Government on the 26th December 1839.

ROUTES FROM KURACHEE TO JERRUK.

THERE are three roads to Jerruk from Kurachee: 1, *viâ* Gharra, Tatta, and Soonda (96 miles); 2, *viâ* Gharra, Hallejee, and Khoodie (89 miles 2 furlongs); 3, *viâ* Run Pitteanee, Jim, and Khoodie (84 miles 1 furlong).

The first of these routes was followed by the army advancing toward Larkhana.

The second I have followed, and surveyed.

The third has been surveyed by the Guides.

I arrived at Gharra on the 5th February 1840, at 4 P. M., having been exactly twenty-four hours in coming from Kurachee harbour, by the creek leading from Ghisree to Gharra.

A survey* of this creek has been made by Lieutenants Barker and Grieve, Indian Navy, from whose work it is laid down in the map. It is navigable for boats of 12 kharars as far as Gharra, and for those of 15 kharars up to Bamboora.

Gharra contains a population of 1,500 souls: supplies are abundant, and water also,—the latter from a nulla near the town, where there are sixteen kucha wells. Formerly water from the Dund (tank) near Hallejee came as far as this, but a bund or embankment has been constructed, which prevents it flowing beyond that place.

There are no boats belonging to Gharra, save a small one, the property of a Syud.

The country in the vicinity of the town is a succession of low sandhills, covered with bushes, the milkbush (Sen) being abundant. I saw no appearance of the country having been under cultivation.

The creek is navigable for small boats as far as two miles beyond the town. Two miles and a half distant east is the Kuleeree Canal, with which the creek might be connected; the course of the Kuleeree will be seen in the map.

The villages on the Kuleeree Canal have of late years become very prosperous, water being in abundance there,—in the same degree as it

* A copy of which is annexed.

has decreased in the Buggaur, on whose banks rice *was* extensively cultivated.

The inhabitants of Gharra are Lohanas and Jokeeas; the former Hindoos, the latter Mahomedan converts, their ancestors having been of the Summa tribe of Rajpoots. They are said to amount now to 8,000 fighting men, and are ruled by their chief, who is styled the Jam. On the death of Meer Moorad Ali Khan, they took service with Meer Nussur Khan, and have steadfastly attached themselves to him, although many offers of increase of pay and favour have been made to them by the other Ameers, if they would desert his cause.

The Loomrees are also of the same descent as the Jokeeas, but have fallen in the estimation of the latter, from having given in marriage their women to the Beloochees: this was done at the instigation of Meer Kurum Ali, who hoped, by effecting such alliances, to bring the *clans* (if I may so call them) firmly together. The Jokeeas, however, would not hear of it.

Ahmed Khan Loomree, of Humlanee, gave a sister and a daughter (I am told) to Meer Kurum Ali and Meer Noor Mahomed in *marriage*.

The climate of Gharra seems nearly similar to that of Kurachee, but not quite so good.

Fever is slightly prevalent after the inundations,—August, September, October, and November. This year people suffered more than usual: twelve persons died of the fever, and most of the inhabitants had it. It is admitted by all, that the last year (1839) was one of the most unhealthy they ever experienced: probably the sickness was in a great measure increased by the want of rain (three years having passed without any falling), and the consequent privations to which the people had been exposed. Our arrival in the country was hailed as a blessing, and many people have told me, that had our forces not entered Sind they must have starved. I am happy to say that our wealth has greatly assisted the poor in Sind: they now have food and raiment for their work, whilst before they were starving, and could procure no employment.

Cholera was prevalent during last March, and carried off seventy people in the town. It had not been known for six years.

On the 6th and 7th February I halted at Gharra, in consequence of my camels not having arrived: took meridian altitude of sun's lower limb by sextant (pocket) in the water of the creek, 50° 39′. I have no ephemeris by me to calculate the latitude, nor do I think this observation is to be depended on as correct, having no false horizon.

On the 8th February marched 6 miles 6 furlongs, to Kutcheree. Road good the whole way, excepting after crossing the Hurchee river, where the sand is deep. River dry; falls into Gharra creek. Passed Chota Peer Putta on the left, and a Mahomedan burial-ground on the right.

Kucheree or Kutcheree is so called from a small mud fort, in which the Jams used to hold their courts of justice and inquiry: the village is merely a few mud huts, and contains a population of about 100 souls.

The appearance of the country at two miles from Gharra improves: it becomes undulating, and is covered with bushes, Kurreel, Tamarisk, Babool, and Peloo. The rain seems to have been abundant here, and the country looks green and thriving, as far as the jungle is concerned, for there is no cultivation.

Observed altitude of the sun's lower limb with a mirror, levelled as well as I could do it, $\begin{array}{r} 2)100^\circ\ 36'\ 0'' \\ \hline 50^\circ\ 18'\ 0'' \end{array}$

At 4 P. M. on the 8th February left the village of Kutcheree, and moved on 5 miles 2 furlongs to Hallejee. The road over low stony hills, covered with (Noorung) milkbush; the village an assemblage of mud huts; population 50 souls.

Hallejee is a moveable village, and advances or retires as the waters of the Dund alter. There was an extent of water of several miles to the south, and a range of low hills north, a few hundred yards distant. Beyond them, the water never proceeds; the water excellent; grass and wood abundant; the cattle the finest I have seen in Sind.

Marched at 5 A. M., on the 9th February; arrived at Syah or Nyah, at 10 A. M., distance 16 miles. Road excellent; a carriage might be driven the whole way.

Six miles after leaving Hallejee we fell into the direct road from Kurachee to Jerruk, a fine, broad, well-defined line of route. No towns or villages were seen, the inhabitants being, as described in my Report* on the country between Sehwan, Tatta, and Kurachee, a wandering race, frequenting those places when water and forage is most plentiful.

Syah is merely a halting-place. A spring of fresh water exists near a rocky ridge and nulla, on the banks of which is a small burial-ground. One tomb was more conspicuous than the rest, and was decorated with rude iron bells, such as are placed round the neck of cattle.

The nulla was 200 yards long, and seventy broad; water deep and plentiful; grass must be brought from Hallejee, unless the traveller has grasscutters with him.

The country between this and Run Pitteanee is a level plain, covered with bushes; distance about 24 miles.

Khoodie or Khoodia is a permanent village of about a hundred mud huts, and a population of 350 souls. The greater part of the inhabitants are Hindoos. The Mahomedans are of the same tribe as the name of

* Vide page 259.

the village, a system which seems to prevail in this part of Sind. Distance 8 miles 6½ furlongs.

The road to-day was not quite so good as that passed over yesterday, but is perfectly practicable for wheeled carriages. The Kowranie river and Roodh are crossed: the sandy bed of the former, and a deep stony nulla just before reaching it, are obstacles which would delay carts, unless the road was improved there.

Jam Peer, a Musjid (and Teerut for Hindoos once a year), where there is a spring of fresh water, is passed on the left; it is on the right bank of the Roodh river, which runs into the Kinjur-ke-Dund. This is the lake laid down in my map of Sind, near Heylaya, or Heylana, and the existence of which was questioned. My information respecting it was correct, but its position in my map is not so. This Dund, and the Sonerée, formerly were in one.

The road across the bed of this river is sometimes, during very heavy rain, or unusual inundations, covered with water, when a détour must be made to the left, round Jam Peer.

The tomb of the Mahomedan Saint, Shaikh Ameen, is a mile and a half beyond the village, on a hill, on the opposite side (east) of which is the Soneree-ke-Dund; the strip of land between the two latter being two kos broad, and runs down to Heylaya.

The Soneree Dund comes from the Indus near Soonda; the Kinjur from the same river near Heylaya. Both are broad canals at the junction, the water being conveyed by them to the *low ground* inland, which forms the Dunds.

Kinjur is 18 miles, and Soneree 24 miles, in circumference, taken at the highest point to which the water rises.

Below Shaikh Ameen's tomb there is an ancient Karavanserai, being a square of fifty yards each side, of stone and chunam: three sides are formed into rooms, the front part supported on pillars of stone. To the south is the entrance, and on that face is a wall merely. The height of the inside walls is fifteen feet, and breadth of building about the same. There is no inscription, or any mark by which to trace the period of its construction: the Fakeers, who reside at the tomb, say it has been built "many many years"; in other words, they know not when. The history of Shaikh Ameen is also involved in like obscurity. Both buildings appear of the same date. It is a good place to put up at, being extensive and secure, with water close by. The place is capable of containing 200 men. It is on the edge of the Dund.

Meridian altitude (at a pool of water near tent) of sun's lower limb

$$\begin{array}{r} 2)100^\circ\ 8'\ 0'' \\ \hline 50^\circ\ 4'\ 0' \end{array}$$

The rivers, like the villages, take the names of the people living on

their banks,—the same river will have half a dozen names. (See map, where these rivers have been crossed at other points.)

At 4 P. M. on the 10th February I left Khoodie, and took the road to the left of the mosque, the guides having proceeded by that to the right. Crossed over a stony plain for two miles, then a rocky difficult nulla, and stony ridge, where the soil is of a deep red colour. Descended from this into the bed of Soneree Dund, skirting the north end of it, and passing a hill in it, called the Palace of Jam Tamache (Jam Tamachu-ke-Marey). This said Jam "was a Summa Rajpoot, and ruler of the kingdom, which in his days extended to Jodhpoor and Baroda, and from the sea to Bukkur." (See a remark, in Sir Alexander Burnes's Travels into Bokhara, regarding the Kings of Alore, Chuch, bin Dur, with which this report, heard from a common guide, agrees.)

The Soneree-ke-Dund has a beautiful appearance, the water being clear and deep (twenty feet it is said), and the bed being gravelly and hard; but few reeds or bushes are seen in it. The exhalations from such an extent of water could not, I think, be unhealthy, since it never entirely dries up, and the vegetation near it is scanty, excepting short grass. After leaving the Dund, a very difficult stony nulla was crossed, which drains a piece of low land three miles north-east of the Dund, and across which the road runs. Owing to the late heavy rains, we were obliged to make a détour, and followed a footpath winding round the ground above mentioned, on the south-east side of which I encamped for the night. Distance 7 miles.

On the morning of the 11th February I moved on at 6 o'clock. Reached Jerruk at half-past 8 A. M.; the whole distance over an undulating stony country; the road a mere footpath, but practicable for carts. Distance 7 miles 3½ furlongs; making the whole distance from Kurachee 89 miles 2 furlongs.

The route by Run Pitteance is as follows:—

	M.	F.	yds.	
Jam-ka-Ote	13	5	0	A few huts of reeds; river Mulleeree.
Guggur	11	6	0	Ditto; Watteya river.
Run Pitteanee	11	4	0	Ditto; Hurchee river.
Kafir-ke-Dund	10	0	0	No village; water from Dund.
Nyah or Syah	14	0	0	As per my route.
Jam Peer	6	6½	0	Ditto.
Khoodie	2	0	0	Ditto.
Jerruk	14	3½	0	Ditto.
Total	84	1	0	

In addition to the impediments on the road *vid* Gharra, there are on this, at Run Pitteanee, a difficult Ghat or Luk, and two nullas, between Kafir-ke-Dund and Syah.

When the convenience of the Gharra Creek for transporting baggage, and the slight difference between the routes in point of distance, is considered, I think the opinions will be in favour of the Gharra route, on which water and grass is decidedly more abundant than on the road by Run Pitteanee.

Jerruk is a town belonging to Meer Mahomed Khan, and occupies an irregular space of seven furlongs in circumference. The site is happily chosen, both as respects salubrity and defence, being upwards of 150 feet above the river, on an abrupt rocky table-land, and having two hills close to the town, which cover the approaches by land and by water. I made diligent inquiries respecting the state of health of the people residing here during the last year, and from comparing their account with that I received at Gharra and other places on the road, it appears that sickness was, and always is, less prevalent here than at any other village near the river in Lower Sind: but four people applied to me for medicine, two with sore eyes, one with boils, and another in the last stage of consumption. I saw no cases of dropsy or spleen, which are so common in other parts of Sind, when fever prevails during the inundations.

The inhabitants and civil authorities were most respectful and attentive, spoke in raptures of the honesty and good behaviour of our troops when passing near their town, and said they anxiously hoped a detachment would be stationed here; which, they remarked, they thought would be the case, as, when the army came, people with *wheels* came, and measured the ground, as they observed me doing.

There were but two boats at the place, one of which was a ferry-boat. The bunder is nearly opposite the southern end of the town, and east of it: a better one might be made at the inside (southern face) of the projecting hill (shown in the sketch), which is close to the river, the vacant space on which, on the same side, would be an eligible site for store-rooms.

Supplies were abundant, and much cheaper than at Kurachee. There were in the bazar 200 shops, and the street which contained them was covered over with matting from side to side. Water is procured from the river, and, after rain, from the tank shown in the sketch.

Jerruk is thirty miles from Tatta, and twenty from Hyderabad. To the north and south there is extensive low ground covered with bushes, and cultivated at the proper season. I am assured that neither north nor south is *ever inundated:* the former is effectually protected from the river by a bund, but the latter is open and low. I visited this place in May 1832, and see no difference in the course of the river here since then.

From NNW. to SSW. the country is hilly, and I see no reason for

SKETCH
OF THE
TOWN OF JERRUK
situated on the
Right Bank of the River Indus
Scale of 300 Yards to an Inch
R. I. N. E. R. I. N. D. U. S.
JERRUK
Flat covered with bushes and shrubs not inundated on the floods
Tank of the honey rock
Tank
Mahomedan Burial Ground
Low water mark
Water Mark
Alluvial Gravelly Plain
(Signed) E. P. Dist. Hude. Capt.n
Assist. Qr. Mr. General

thinking that the situation would prove unhealthy. There are two extensive Dunds within equal distances of the place,—Sôl, nine miles north, and that near Doondee, the same distance east. Neither Tatta nor Sehwan are so free from vegetation and marshes as Jerruk. On the overland route from Kurachee to Sehwan, during the hot weather, I think a scarcity of water would be experienced, for the Soomarees and Jokeeas during that season retreat to the Hutt river.

The roads leading from Kurachee to Jerruk are good : laden camels travel the distance by the direct route in five days, and *viâ* Gharra in six ; three of which are taken up in reaching that town. It does not appear to me that the Natives make much use of the Gharra Creek. At present it is, however, a very great convenience for the transport of heavy baggage from Kurachee. Doondees (flat boats) will carry from 70 to 100 candies of merchandize, and reach Gharra in two tides.

The route from Gharra to Jerruk is out of the influence of the inundations, or nearly so, and may with very little expense or trouble be made passable for carts. The distance is 50 miles.

The route from Kurachee to Sehwan, 146 miles, is good, and by it a considerable portion of the Indus is avoided, the delay in tracking boats on it being very great, viz :—

	Days.
From Gorabaree (or the sea) to Tatta	13
Tatta to Hyderabad	8
Hyderabad to Sehwan	14
Total..	35
From Kurachee to Gharra	2
Gharra to Jerruk	3
Jerruk to Sehwan	16½
Total..	21½
From Kurachee to Sehwan by land	12

The hire of a boat from Kurachee to Gharra is about Rs. 8; one from Jerruk to Sehwan I believe about Rs. 40; hire of a camel from Gharra to Jerruk Rs. 4;—making an expense of Rs. 52 from Kurachee to Sehwan *viâ* Jerruk.

From Gorabaree I do not think that boats would proceed to Sehwan under Rs. 80 or Rs. 100. The hire of a camel from Kurachee to Sehwan is Rs. 6½ or Rs. 7.

Jerruk is approached by land from Kurachee direct from Tatta *viâ* Soonda, and from Gharra. Troops may be brought from Lukput Bunder *viâ* Kotree, Bhoor, Chundan, and Bulrey, and crossed at Jerruk

ferry ; or by Juggee, Shahbunder, and Moogerbhee, to Tatta, or by Shahkapoor and Doondey *viâ* Katiar to Jerruk.

They can be embarked from Guzerat, if requisite, at Jooria Bunder, and land at the Seer mouth, below Moogerbhee or the Gorabaree; or be transferred in Kurachee harbour to small craft, and land at Gharra.

These observations may prove useful when the time comes for relieving the regiments now in Sind.

On the 5th February 1840 I embarked at Jerruk, and reached Tatta in nine hours and a half, paying Rs. 20 for two boats, each of 12 kharars.

At three miles below Tatta I hired fresh boats at an expense of Rs. 33, which took me to Gorabaree, or rather I should say to the point on the Wunnyanee opposite and east of the said town, which was distant six miles. I passed the Hujamree branch, which was only knee-deep, whilst that in which my boat was, averaged three fathoms. The channel is wide, and free from obstacles. On the 19th I hired a Nowree of 40 kharars or about 120 candies, to proceed to Kutch, for which I paid Rs. 81, Rs. 2 per kharar being the usual rate. The vessel only drew four feet water, andwas thirty years old. We started with the tide from the place to which sea-boats come, distant about ten miles from the mouth of the river, and got out to sea without the least difficulty, and sailing the whole time in nearly a direct southerly course.

This branch has been in existence two years, and is now the main branch of the Indus. I inquired whether the change in the first instance was sudden, and found it was so, but that no lives had been lost. The inhabitants of the Delta say they can generally tell in what direction the new courses will be formed, by observing the manner in which the old ones are blocked up.

A few years hence the river may return to its ancient course; but it seems to me that the western branches are gradually being forsaken, and the course of the river becoming at its mouth more easterly. Thus the Buggaur and the Hujamree have been abandoned, and I passed a bank sixteen miles east of Gorabaree, where formerly a shallow entrance to the river existed.

REPORT ON THE COUNTRY

BETWEEN

KURACHEE, TATTA, AND SEHWAN.

BY

CAPTAIN E. P. DELHOSTE,

16TH REGIMENT BOMBAY NATIVE INFANTRY,

ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, N. D. A.

Submitted to Government on the 26th December 1839.

KURACHEE, TATTA, AND SEHWAN.

The country between Kurachee, Tatta, and Sehwan contains a space of 6,934 square miles, the position of the above places being as follows:—

	N. Latitude.	E. Longitude.
Kurachee	24° 47′ 17″	67° 0′ 51″
Tatta	24° 45′ 0″	67° 59′ 0″
Sehwan	26° 22′ 0″	68° 7′ 52″

The soil may be considered as generally light clay, although in some places there is a good deal of sand, and in others sandstone and pebbles, mixed with the soil. The former is in general the formation of the lower parts, whilst of the latter the hilly tracts are composed. Where irrigated and manured, this soil is very productive, but except in the vicinity of the river Indus, there is little or no cultivation in the whole of the country under description. Indeed, with the exception of the large towns above mentioned, and those permanent villages along the right bank of the Indus, from Tatta to Sehwan, with Gharra and Gooja, there are no fixed villages within the limits: the inhabitants are consequently few, and are chiefly employed in tending large flocks of sheep and goats, camels, and buffaloes, in which their wealth consists. Their habitations are as rude as their appearance, being composed of a kind of matting, made from a reed called Puk or Punkah: these resemble the huts seen in many parts of India in the outskirts of villages, in which Wangrees and Kolatnees reside; the reed there is called Soilkee. When properly made, the tattees keep out the rain and dust in a wonderful manner. The Puk or Punkah used in Sind is of a much larger size, and of a dark brown colour. It is easily rolled up when the shepherds require to move, which they do according as the grass and water become expended. These people,—it will be remembered I speak of the wandering tribes,—are Beloochees, Jokeeas, and Soomrees. The Beloochees occupy a portion of the country, which would be described by a line being drawn from the end of the Jutteel Hills to Tatta; the Jokeeas occupy the country between Tatta and Kurachee; and the Soomrees the remaining part of the district. The former are insolent and thievishly inclined, being Sindian Beloochees, and patronized by the rulers of the country; the Jokeeas are well disposed; and the Soomrees a quiet, inoffensive race, in this part of the country, whatever they may be elsewhere.

From the inquiries I have instituted, I do not believe that the amount of population in this part of Sind (the large permanent villages and towns not included) exceeds five or six hundred; their food is chiefly meat; grain is little used,—a substitute is found for it by drying and pounding a berry called Beer, which is mixed with water, and packed away in pots. This, with sour milk as a beverage, is what they exist on. They derive some profit from the coarse Numunds made from the wool of their goats and sheep, as also, since our arrival, from the quantity of the Puk tattees and mats that have been disposed of by them.

The revenue derived from this part of Sind by the Ameers is realized chiefly at Kurachee, which alone pays yearly Rs. 1,00,000; out of which the following sums are paid:—

	Pay of Saduk Shah Nuwab	Rs.	180	0 0
14	Belooch (Jokeea) Sepoys		100	0 0
4	Golundauze		20	0 0
1	Jemedar, 20 Sepoys		120	0 0
	Nakoda Synah, Jemedar of Kulasees		17	0 0
	Ali Reekha Jemedar		35	0 0
	Tegchuna		35	0 0
	Abbas Ali Shah		25	0 0
	Kurumchund		37	0 0
2	Moonshees		24	0 0
2	inferior ditto		5	0 0
2	Peons for collecting Taxes on the Mahonas (Fishermen).		16	0 0
	Writers and Sepoys for Bunder		19	0 0
2	Durwans (Doorkeepers) at Mitta and Kara Gates ..		11	0 0
2	Attendants at Chubootra		7	0 0
	Peon over Mochees		4	0 0
	Paymaster (Receiver)		7	8 0
	Stationery		7	8 0
	Pugees		27	8 0
	Oil		2	8 0
3	Syuds, Pensioners		24	8 0
	Total Monthly Expenditure	Rs.	724	8 0
	Annual Expenditure	Rs.	8,694	0 0
	Expenses allowed annually in Fort Munhora *formerly*.		1,344	0 0
	Sepoys (20), at Rs. 5 each .. Rs. 100			
	Water for above 12			
	112 × 12		10,038	0 0
	Annual gift to Peer Mungah	Rs.	107	0 0
	Total ..	Rs.	10,145	0 0

The amount thus realized from Kurachee is the produce of the land and sea customs, there being little or no revenue derived from the soil. It may be considered singular that such an extent of country should yield little or nothing; but surprise will cease when it is known that the cultivator only realizes one-fourth of the profit of his field, the remaining three-fourths being seized by the Ameers, and their Karbarees. I believe that there is not a doubt of the truth of this assertion, since more than half the Natives I have consulted confirmed the report I had heard: one in particular remarked to me—"You think us idle and careless; but were it not for this excessive taxation, the appearance of the country here would be very different." This is literally holding out a reward to the idle; and it is surprising that this ruinous proceeding is not apparent to the rulers of the country. I can form no idea here of what the revenue of Tatta and Sehwan may be.

The tax on the Mahonas or fishermen on the Indus is a considerable source of wealth to the rulers of the country.

The only rivers of any note in this tract are the Hubb (which rises near Zeheey, and enters the sea west of Cape Monge) and the Barran; the others, consisting of the Mulleeree, Hurchee, Liaree, Kowranee, Rooah, Peepree, Goorban, Murraee, Pokun, Warkee, Kayjooree, and Doombeh, are all mountain streams, dry the greater part of the year, but water is always found by digging a few feet in their beds. I am led to believe that a sufficient quantity might be readily obtained (by excavating large pools in the rivers) for irrigation, were the excessive taxation abolished, and greater protection afforded the cultivators. This is a matter of serious consideration on the route from hence to Sehwan direct, as the great difficulty now to be overcome is the want of supplies on the line of route. In the Pokun, Kayjooree, or Doombeh (the same river, only at different points so called from halting-places), water would not be found probably without great labour; but were holes or pits made, the water would remain in them. Their beds are rocky; the others sandy.

The Hubb river has been traced from the Pubb hills to the sea, a distance of 14½ miles, throughout which a depth of water of eight inches in the month of September was found, and in some places deep pools, abounding with fish and alligators. The river is said never to fail, even in the driest seasons, and is the chief resort of the Soomrees and Beloochees. This does not appear to be the description of a *fine river*, but in this part of Sind a running stream (except after rain) is seldom met with.

The Hubb enters the sea west of Cape Monge (Mooaree), and between it and the island of Churna or Churn. It rises near Zehree, and has been traced from near Hoja Jamote, in the route to which place a description of it is given.

The Barran rises in a mountain called Kirter, NW. of Humlanee 30 kos, and joins the Indus 2½ furlongs south of Kotree: for one mile from its junction with the great river, it contains a good deal of water. It is laid down on the route from Kurachee to Hyderabad direct.

The streams are frequently called after the tribes that are in the habit of residing on their banks, and indeed the villages or camps also derive their names from the same source: Hoja Jamote (Hoja, the chief of that party, and Jamote, the name of the tribe), Shah-ka-Gote, Mahomed Khan ke-Tanda, &c. are of this derivation.

Hills are numerous in the northern and north-east portions of this tract, and it will be easy to trace them by reference to the map. The ranges are—

1, The nearest to Kurachee, ending in Cape Monge.

2, The Pubb range, of which that mountain is the highest point.

3, The Sahkan Hill, the More, the Andhar, More Pubb.

4, Jutteel, Lukkee, Karra, and a number of other detached hills, which bear the names given them in the map.

It will be seen that the Lukkee mountains do not hold the place assigned them in most of the maps: they run from the Jutteel range nearly SW. toward Hyderabad, and from the Lukkee Pass (Lukapass,—the town of Lukkee, near the pass, probably gives it the name of Lukkee), by projecting into the Indus. This pass is now nearly destroyed by the force of the current of the river, and probably next year will not exist. In these hills the hot springs are found; also alum and sulphur. The fort of Runnee, which I shall have occasion to describe hereafter, is situated hereabouts.

The Jutteel mountains run nearly SW. from Sehwan, are very lofty, and steep. They extend to Dooba or Doomba, 66 miles, and the road direct from Kurachee to Sehwan runs between them and another range equally high.

It may be said that the tract of country from Sonmeeanee to Sehwan, and from thence to Kurachee, contains scarcely anything but hills and mountain streams: lead, antimony, alum, sulphur, and copper, are found in these hills.

The forts are Munhora; Runnee, near the Indus; Baraboor, near Gharra; Kulla Kote, near Tatta; the old castle called Kafir Killa, near Sehwan.

Munhora will be found described in the Report by Captain Harris and myself on Kurachee.

Runnee-ka-Kote is situated 2½ kos from Sumi, a town of about a hundred houses, on the right bank of the Indus. It was built by Meer Kurum Ali, and his brother Meer Moorad Ali, twenty-seven years ago, cost Rs. 12,00,000, and has never been inhabited, in consequence of there being a scarcity of water in and near it. That so large a fort should

have been constructed, without its having been ascertained beforehand that an article so indispensably requisite, not only for the use of man, but even for the construction of the walls, was wanting, seems most extraordinary; but I am told that this is the sole reason for its having been abandoned. A rapid stream *in the rains* runs past it, and joins the Indus; and by a deviation from its course, parts of the walls of the fort have been destroyed. The object of its construction seems to have been to afford a place of refuge to the Ameers in case of their country being invaded. My informant had seen the fort a few months before he described it to me, and gave me an outline of it, from which, and his description, I have been enabled to make this sketch. The hill on the north face is the steepest, and, from the intelligence I received, must be at least 800 or 1,000 feet high; the opposite hill is of considerable height, and the east and west walls are built on level ground, and join those constructed on the hills;—the whole is of stone and chunam, forming an irregular pentagon, and enclosing a space capable of containing 2,000 men.

The course of the river (which I believe to be that described by me, in the account of Sind written in 1832, as Sunn river) ran formerly round the base of the north face, but about twelve years ago it changed its course, and destroyed part of the NW. wall, as noted in the sketch, the distance from that wall to the river being about 400 yards. The bed of the river (original course) is described as *rocky:* if so, nothing could be more easy than to deepen it at the point where it has taken a turn, and construct a tunnel from thence to the fort, and below the wall (which must be rebuilt on arches), an excavation made inside to receive the water, and a supply would be secured. It is not surprising, however, that this idea has not occurred to those who originally built the place, without considering from whence water was to be obtained. The fort is 38 kos from Kurachee. I have a survey of the route to within 27 kos of it, and shall endeavour to get a rough survey of the fort, as it might be of use as a station for our troops. The Ameers, I am told, would gladly give it up, considering it *of no value*, from the cause stated.

Baraboor is in the Gharra creek. It is scarcely distinguishable now, and is reported to have been the site of a *Kafir* city and fort.

Kulla-ke-Kote is three miles south of Tatta (built by the Nuwabs from Delhi it is said). A survey of it has been made. I have never seen it, owing to my duties here, preventing my absence from head quarters (a regulation which I think it would be advantageous to Government to alter, and to have matters so arranged as to permit the officers of this department to exert themselves in obtaining local knowledge, as I believe is done in Bengal. The Officers of the Quartermaster General's Department on this side of India have not only the duties of the brigade or

division to which they belong, but the charge of public buildings, barrack department, and roads).

There are several traditions respecting Kafir Killa; I take the following account and sketch of it from my Journal, kept during the Sind Mission.

"*April* 14*th*, 1832.—This evening we landed near the town of Sehwan, and after visiting a ruined Eedga, which at a distance we mistook for the fort built by Alexander,—or rather said to have been built by him,—we discovered, by the aid of two Sindians, that the mound was NW. of the town, through a part of which we walked, and ascended the fort. It is an artificial mound, eighty or ninety paces high; on the top, a space of 1,500 by 800 feet, surrounded by a broken wall. We examined the remains of several old towers of brick, and I took a hasty sketch of the gateway, which is remarkably lofty. The mound is evidently artificial, and the remains of several towers visible. The brick-work seems to extend to the bottom of the mound, or at any rate to a considerable depth, as we could see down the parts washed away by the rains. A well, filled up, was observed. We were told that coins and medals were frequently found on and near the place, but were not so fortunate as to obtain any."

I regret now having had so little time to devote to the examination of this fort, but think the period of its construction is not of so ancient a date as is ascribed to it.

The resources of the country, as far as grain, cloth, &c. are concerned, are drawn from the large towns near the river, and its vicinity. Cattle, sheep, goats, and camels, are abundant in the desert tract.

Gram is brought from Tatta and Sehwan, and bajree, wheat, and rice principally brought from Larkhana. Grass is abundant along the river, and in the hills NE. of Kurachee. A supply should be cut and stacked in September and October, for the Sindians merely bring in the daily supply, either not caring for to-morrow, or probably from a fear of being plundered by the Karbarees if a stock were laid in.

Mineral productions have been mentioned in speaking of the hills.

At Tatta, cloth loongees and carpets; at Sehwan, carpets, and the caps worn by Sindians; at Kurachee, I am informed many articles of the same sort are made.

Skins and hides, raw and tanned, are exported to Arabia and Bombay. The Report on Kurachee includes this subject.

The only curiosity near Kurachee is the Peer Mungah Musjid, and hot springs, nine miles NE. of Kurachee. The hot springs abound with alligators, and a most disgusting sight they are: there are, it is said, upwards of 200 of them in a small space, scarcely 120 yards in circumference, some very large. Their appearance, basking in the sun,

is not unlike a dried date tree. A sketch is the best mode of describing their appearance. This place has been well described* by Lieutenant Carless, Indian Navy.

The climate of Lower Sind, out of the influence of the sea-breeze, is bad during the months of August, September, October, and November. Fevers are then very prevalent, and of a very dangerous and obstinate nature. The fact of the whole of the 26th Regiment having suffered from fever (two Officers and one Havildar only excepted), three European Officers and nearly a hundred men having died this season, is sufficient proof of the unhealthiness of the climate in these months, within the influence of the malaria arising from the inundated lands. Sehwan is not better, I fear, for from its situation it is equally open to miasma from the marshes SW. of it, and the inundated country to the N. and NE. Most of our people who have been there have been attacked with fever.

Kurachee has been healthy, and the climate mild and temperate; the cold bracing, but not severe hitherto (16th December),—a point which may be of importance in fixing the site of the cantonment for the troops remaining in Sind.

The roads in this part of Sind are, as in most others, mere footpaths, wheeled carriages being unknown,—better, are scarcely necessary. Surveys have been made of the following places, from which the map has been constructed:—

Kurachee to Tatta.
To Sehwan.
To Kotree.
To Hubb river, and along its banks to the sea.
To Fort Munhora by land.
To Hoja Jamote.
To Poer Mungah.
To Ghisree Creek.

These have been performed by two Guides, Oree Sing and Essoo Rama, and Private Guide Kenkaya Mahadavia; and a survey of Camp and the country near it by Captain Boyd, who acted for me during my absence on sick certificate.

The following remarks were drawn up by me on transmitting copies of the routes to Bombay:—

The routes forwarded by this day's post (December 15th) are of considerable importance, since they show the present state of the country on the right bank of the Indus, from Sehwan to the sea; from which it will be observed, that in a line of road extending in one instance 140 miles, and in another 96 miles, not one single permanent

* Vide pages 204 to 208 of this Selection.

village has been met with, although no scarcity of water exists. The cause assigned for this desolation is the injustice and excessive taxation to which the cultivator of the soil is exposed, three-fourths of the produce of his field being taken from him by the Ameers and their Karbarees; the revenue of the country is therefore reduced to that realized at Kurachee, which averages Rs. 1,00,000.

The route from hence to Hyderabad *viâ* Kotree has been lately travelled by Lieutenant and Mrs. Traders, and by Lieutenant Franklin, 2nd Grenadiers, and his detachment of 60 rank and file. No difficulty has been experienced. Supplies of grain and food were taken from hence; sheep and goats are procurable on the line of route. The country is quiet, and the few people met with civil and inoffensive. Water is found in the beds of the rivers, by digging a few feet.

The above remarks are equally applicable to the route from hence to Sehwan, which, however, is of greater importance than the former, since it opens a direct communication with the interior of Sind, and would enable us to move to a point from whence, by dropping down the river, the capital could be attacked in twenty-four hours, and a body of troops (owing to the uninhabited state of the country between this and Sehwan) might appear before it before intimation of the fact of our having moved could be given, provided the plea of proceeding to Upper Sind was given out, and boats ready secured at Sehwan. By crossing the river at Sehwan, the communication between Hyderabad and Khyrpoor could be cut off, or, by advancing to Larkhana, the richest province of Sind would be laid open to us.

A force at Kurachee, with detachments at Sehwan and Bukkur, would hold Sind in complete subjection. To the merchants, the discovery of this route is of the greatest value, since, by pursuing it, they avoid the delay and danger of entering and tracking up the Indus to Sehwan, a journey of at least one month, which can be performed in ten days from Kurachee. The water communication from Sehwan to Larkhana, and to the Indus, by the Arul and Narra, is highly advantageous, since the rapid current is avoided, which is an obstacle in the Indus.

The route from Kurachee to Hoja Jamote, in the vicinity of Kanar river, has proved the existence there of lead and antimony. The information I have obtained, in consequence, of the existence of copper near Beyla, is also of importance, and may hereafter be turned to account.

It remains only for me to speak of the boats and boatmen, the harbour of Kurachee having been described in a former Report. The boatmen are all Mahomedans, and called Mahonas. They are respectable and hardy fellows, and not of the same description as the Mahonas of Upper Sind, and on the river. The wives of the latter are called

Koblee, and are not remarkable for their fidelity,—a point which causes their husbands to be looked down on.

There are at Kurachee the boats as per list. The tonnage for boats on the river is calculated by a measure called Kurwar, which in the measurement of boats is equal to 3 Bombay candies; but at Kurachee the tonnage is calculated in candies.

The following measures are in use at Kurachee:—4 Chatallo = 1 Pattee; 16 Pattee = 1 Kassa; 60 Kassas = 1 Kurwar; 1 Kurwar = 90 Bombay Maunds.

In measuring grain, the Kurwar varies in size: thus bajree and wheat, 3½ Candies = 1 Kurwar; rice, 3¾ Candies = 1 Kurwar.

List of Boats belonging to the Harbour of Kurrachee, December 18th, 1839, with the Tonnage, and the Names of the Owners.

Numbers.	Description of Boat.	Tonnage in Candies.	Owners' Names.	Remarks.
1	Kotia	90		The Kotia resembles the Botella used in India: it has a flat stern and round bottom, and does not fall over much when aground.
1	Dinghee	150		
1	Ditto	140	Naomull Moteram.	
1	Ditto	100		
1	Ditto	60		
1	Ditto	125		The Dinghee is sharp bowed, bottom, and stern, and must be supported by props when aground; like the Pattimar used in India, excepting having a high stern and poop.
1	Ditto	100	Wissundass Sett.	
1	Ditto	75		
1	Ditto	140		
1	Ditto	100	Goah Sett, Baman.	
1	Ditto	150		
1	Ditto	130	Ali Reekha, Jemedar.	
1	Ditto	100		
1	Ditto	150		The former are heavy sailers, the latter speedy.
1	Ditto	140	Mehmon.	
3	Ditto	100		
1	Ditto	125	Naiqua Meymund.	
1	Ditto	100		
1	Ditto	60	Naqua Jaffer.	
1	Ditto	60	Bhook, Bukranee.	
1	Ditto	90	Jugga, Banian.	
1	Ditto	50	Pursun Barga.	
1	Ditto	70	Goloo Mehmon.	
1	Ditto	60	Jacoob.	
1	Ditto	50	Pyaenah.	
1	Ditto	150	Hajee Mehmon.	

TOPOGRAPHICAL REPORT

ON THE

CITY OF TATTA, AND ITS ENVIRONS.

BY

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Submitted to Government on the 30th April 1839.

TOPOGRAPHY OF TATTA.

Tatta, a town on the western bank of the Indus, in lat. 24° 44′ N., and long. 68° 17′ E., when under the sway of the Moguls, was one of the most flourishing of oriental emporia; and the alluvial and inundated country in the vicinity, then kept in the highest state of cultivation, yielded abundant crops of rice, sugar, indigo, and cotton. It was at that time also famous for its manufactures in cotton cloth, which, so late as in the reign of Nadir, employed about 40,000 weavers.

Consequent, however, on the decline and fall of the Mogul dynasty, the invasion of Sind by the Beloochees, and the apathy evinced by the present rulers to everything like improvement, all has changed for the worse. The Ameers' sole care is concentrated in forming and preserving Shikargahs, or game-preserves, which extend over nearly one-fourth of the richest part of Sind, and are enclosed. It has been stated, and perhaps with truth, that policy first led the Sindian Government to devastate so much fertile country, in order that their enemies should not, by the prospect of gain, be induced to invade their territories. With the present rulers, shooting in these Gahs is their only pastime, which is followed up at an enormous expense, hurting their finances, and by no means tending to the improvement of their subjects' welfare; while the ruinous system of farming out the revenues, and the rapacity of the merciless collectors, deprive the cultivator of all permanent interest in a soil, the fertility of which is a proverb, and the richness and luxuriance of the crops produced more than a counterbalance to those frequent famines which devastate parts of Lower Sind and neighbouring States, under circumstances of severity seldom surpassed, if ever equalled.

The town occupies a position slightly elevated, in a direction west, about three miles from the river Indus, and one mile east from a low range of rocky hills. Without walls, or other means of defence, it is open and unprotected. Its low, flat-roofed houses, without any towering mosque or pagoda, give to the place an air of meanness, which the few surrounding trees scarcely relieve. Its streets are narrow: occa-

sional mounds of accumulated filth are found at the different turnings; but generally the streets themselves are clean, as the inhabitants keep them so by adding their filth to that of the different heaps of animal and vegetable matter in the vicinity. A few Banyan shops are interspersed here and there in the town, and wherever a wider street than usual occurs, it is converted into a small market-place, for the sale of fish and fruit, vegetables, firewood, &c. No regular bazar exists, unless an open street, running through the centre of the town in a direction north and south, in which shops are more numerous than elsewhere, and whose width permits the being exposed for sale articles brought from the surrounding country, can be called by that name. The principal merchandize sold is flour, grains, tobacco, dried dates, sugar, &c.* Shops containing articles of wearing apparel, cloth, &c. are rarely met with. The manufacturers† of Tatta are at the present day far more skilful than those of any other place in Sind: the loongees,‡ composed of silk and cotton, interwoven with gold thread, are of exquisite beauty and workmanship; the chintzes are much superior to those of India, both in texture and pattern; the fine cloths are almost equal to those of Surat; but the dungaree is of an inferior quality.

A few of the houses of Tatta are built with ground and upper apartments; but the greater number are one-storied. All, however, possess ventilators, fronting the west, which admit, during the hot season, air into the rooms below, unaccompanied by the fine dust with which the atmosphere is then loaded. The doors are generally low, opening into the street, and in some of the better houses into an inner court yard, in which a few shrubs are planted. The windows are uniformly small, and few front to the westward. Almost all the old houses are built of burnt brick, but the modern ones of wood and mud, raised on a foundation of burnt bricks, or stone, built several feet high,—a preventive against damp during the time of the inundation. Most of the old houses are now in a rapid state of decay, and their bricks are being removed for the foundations of new edifices. The number of dwelling-places inhabited is 2,550, while 1,900 uninhabited, fast falling into decay, add much to the miserable appearance Tatta now exhibits.

* The duties on spices are so heavy that the importation of them is almost at an end: the richer classes alone enjoy them, by stealth.

† A considerable quantity of potash is made.

‡ Loongees are greatly prized, and are generally included in all presents made to foreign powers; and on such occasions the Ameers do not fail to boast of the workmanship: but still, with their usual want of foresight, they overlook the necessity of maintaining their manufacture, which would be a most lucrative export.

The population by the Natives is estimated at 11,400,* the greatest proportion of which are Hindoos. Several of the latter, Banyans, are possessed of considerable wealth. Thus Natives of Sind, who are Musulmans,† form the least numerous portion of the inhabitants. Their character and appearance will be best illustrated by the following quotation from Hippocrates :—" You will almost always find the forms of men and the nature of the place corresponding : for where the soil is rich and soft, and wet, and of uniform temperature, the people are gross, lymphatic, and of relaxed joints ; intolerant of toil, and cowards ;

* Musulmans, male	2,200
Ditto, female	1,700
Ditto, children	1,100
Total	5,000
Hindoos, male	2,500
Ditto, female	2,400
Ditto, children	1,500
Total	6,400
Strangers	800

Of late years the population has been fast decreasing. In 1832 there were nearly 22,000 persons in Tatta ; but, from the oppression of the rulers, great numbers have fled to other countries, and no calculation can be made, for in proportion to the decrease at Tatta has the increase at Hyderabad taken place. From the circumstance of cholera raging at the capital, and perhaps from other causes, the population of Tatta has received an increase of 800 souls within the last few days.

† In the city of Tatta the following tribes are exempted from taxes, unless engaged in trade, in which case one-half of the usual duty and customs are exacted :—

1, Syud Rujwee or Muhadwee.
2, Do. Seckláee.
3, Do. Sooffee.
4, Do. Meerukhee.
5, Do. Ameer Khanee.
6, Do. Shirazee.
7, Do. Bokharee.
8, Do. Lodhee.
9, Do. Moola Abbasee.
10, Do. Kazee.
11, Do. Moolvee.
12, Do. Mooftee.
13, Do. Akhoond.

} Amongst these tribes an annual allowance is made of Rs. 12,000 from His Highness Meer Noor Mahomed, for keeping the tombs, musjids, &c. in repair, and affording charity.

14, Beloochee.
15, Jokeeah.
16, Jhunkra.
17, Buckallee.
18, Buttearah.
19, Halalkore.
20, Coolies.
21, Juttee, or Fishmongers.

Bramins,—Sarswood, Pokurneh, and Hussainee.
All mendicants and priests.
On the remaining castes a tax of Rs. 1,200 per annum is levied.
The slaves, though not numerous, of all these tribes, are well treated.

indolent and sleepy; they are neither keen nor subtle, but dull in the arts." Beloochees are seldom seen in and about Tatta.

Although the vicinity of Tatta is wanting in one of the grandest features of Indian scenery,—"palm trees, those princes of the vegetable kingdom,"—yet the general aspect of the country is pleasingly diversified with foliage. Thick tamarisk jungle gives it an appearance of verdure; numerous clumps of babool trees scattered here and there over the surface of the plain, and a rocky ridge, running parallel and close to the city for miles, on which are several handsome tombs and mausoleums, with distant hills, all tend to remove that uniform and monotonous appearance, which alluvial soils generally possess. The river Indus is too far removed from the town to form any positive feature in the landscape, unless when it inundates its banks, and assumes a semblance to a large lake, or, as the Natives term it, the "Fresh-water Sea."

Numerous gardens and enclosed patches of ground, cultivated by irrigation, are on the eastern or river side of the town, and these, surrounded by lofty mango and tamarind trees, render that part of the plain more agreeable to the eye, when immediately close to it, than any of the other portions, which at present are either jungle, or untilled soil. The surface of the country, thus varied, is generally very even, and is not twenty feet above the level of the Indus when at its lowest. Its soil, near the bed of the river, is a light and moveable loam, mixed with a large proportion of micaceous and felspathic particles minutely disintegrated. Further, however, from the bed of the river, aluminous matter begins to preponderate over the powers of the mica and felspar, and the soil is rendered heavy and tenacious, until near the bases of the rocky ridge and the neighbouring hills, where it again becomes lighter, from being mixed with calcareous and sandy particles. Sand, which forms the basis of all the flat country of Bengal, seems also to form the base of that of Sind, although, in the immediate vicinity of Tatta, the alluvial nature of the upper soil is lost in plastic clay, which is largely used for potters' work, and is, in fact, the material of which the town is chiefly built. The upper alluvium is very rich; but, from the decay of animal and vegetable matters on its surface, it is, after a fall of rain, covered by a thin efflorescence of muriate of soda, and nitre: nevertheless, it may be considered a new soil, as yet unexhausted by husbandry*; for if the advantages of nature were duly seconded by the efforts of human skill, the resources of this country would be inexhaustible. Rice, wheat, barley, bajree, gram, cotton, and indigo, might all be successfully cultivated, while the sugarcanes of India and the Mauritius might be introduced with the greatest profit.

* The harvests here correspond exactly in time with those of India, and the implements of husbandry are similar in both countries.

Distinct tracts of country are formed by the hills in the vicinity of Tatta. The first range, WSW. of the town, runs in a straight direction north and south, parallel to the Indus, forming part of the *divortia aquarum* of the district, and dividing the alluvial plain into two distinct portions,—that which the river flows through, and that beyond, which is bounded by another range of hills, stretching in a direction from WSW. to ENE., and unconnected with the first range. Again, a third low range of hills, bearing SW. of the southern extremity of the first, extends for several miles SE. and NW., evidently the watershed of the Buggaur branch of the river Indus, which flows in that direction. The first basin, or the basin of the Indus, is flat, as is the second basin, with the exception of several solitary hills, with table summits, interspersed here and there, the most remarkable of which bears WSW. of the range running north and south, and has on its top several large tombs or temples. This basin continues till beyond Gharra, twenty and a half miles west of Tatta, where the alluvial soil becomes lost in a loose sand, denying all vegetation, save a few tufts of dried plants, and bushes of the Mimosa and Ziziphus,—a soil so loose that it is drifted by every wind, and gathered into cumuli by every obstacle, thus assuming the appearance of waves. The length of the first range of hills may be calculated at ten miles, while its average height does not exceed 120 feet. The second, which is part of the chain of hills called Lukkee, has its nearest point to the first range at a distance of about fifteen miles. Its appearance is low, and extended, varying in height from 350 to 500 feet; and the only remarkable feature it presents is a conical hill, bearing N. 30° E. The last-mentioned range is very low and irregular, and is distant from Tatta about twenty miles. It presents no remarkable features, and I am unacquainted with its structure, as well as with that of the Lukkee Hills, unless by specimens of quartzose sandstone and tertiary limestone brought from them; but I am almost certain their geology offers a rich field to competent observers, and he who explores them will say:

> " Vidi ego, quod fuerat quondam solidissima tellus
> Esse fretum; vidi factas ex æquore terras:
> Et procul a pelago conchæ jacuere marinæ:
> Et vetus inventa est in montibus anchora summis.
> Quodque fuit campus. Vallem decursus aquarum
> Fecit."

The solitary hills in the second alluvial plain have a geological structure similar to that of Mukallee, whose structure I shall hereafter describe, which is the name given by the inhabitants to the rocky ridge on which are the tombs of Tatta, as well as the encampment of part of the Sind Reserve Force.

The course of the river Indus is nearly north and south. It flows in a bed of stiff clay in most parts, and of mud in others, with steep alluvial banks, which it commences overflowing about the period of the vernal equinox, subsiding again into its original channel by that of the autumnal. The extent of country inundated above the Delta is generally limited, but, in favourable seasons, it extends over the whole plain, isolating Tatta, and washing not only the base of the rocky hills in the vicinity of the town, but that of the hills beyond. A considerable quantity of detritus is brought down, and the water from this cause is of a deep brown muddy colour, which it loses by being allowed to settle, or by filtering. The river, which is about 800 yards broad, with a current of about three miles an hour, is never fordable, nor affected by the tides opposite Tatta.

The prevailing winds are from the west and south, blowing over a low tract of country from the ocean. Easterly winds are rare, but northerly occasionally blow for many days in succession. Tatta is within the influence of the south-west monsoon, but the quantity of rain that falls is uncertain, and not calculated upon by the inhabitants as a source of assistance in agriculture. From November to April, occasional showers of rain fall about new and full moon, accompanied by vivid thunder and lightning.

Lower Sind may be said to be within the Scitaminean region, or that its Flora has many similarities to that of India east and west of the Ganges. It may also be said to partake of the region of the Cassia and Mimosa, which seem particularly to prevail in Persia and Arabia,—a region which is separate from that of India, and distinct from that of the Mediterranean. It is, however, without the latitude in which the date ripens (from 29° to 35°), or if it ever does ripen, the fruit gives a very inadequate idea of the sweet and agreeable flavour that the ripe and freshly gathered dates of the Euphrates have.

Before enumerating the most remarkable families of plants in the vicinity of Tatta, it may be observed that seeds dropped on the soil, and subsequently covered by the sediment of the river, are never likely to be developed; and this may be the reason why the productions of the vegetable kingdom are so limited.

Of the *Leguminosæ* are found—Acacia Arabica; A. catechu; Cassia auriculata; Tamarindus Indica; Hedysarum alhagi.

Euphorbiæ,—Euphorbia antiquorum; E. tirucalli; Croton; and Ricinus.

Malvaceæ,—Gossypium herbaceum; Hibiscus esculentus; H. populneus.

Solaneæ,—Nicotiana tabacum; Datura metel; D. fatuosa; Convolvulus batatas.

Meliaceæ,—Melia azadirachta; M. sempervirens.

Liliaceæ,—Allium descendens; A. cepa; Aloe spicata.

Apocineæ,—Salvadora Persica; Nerium oleander; Asclepias gigantea; and several other species not now flowering.*

Tamariscineæ,—Tamarix Indica.

Cerealiæ,—Holcus sorghum, the most valuable of the Cerealiæ; H. spicatus.

Capparides,—Capparis aphylla.

Cucurbitaceæ,—Cucurbita pepo; Cucumis melo; C. colocynthis.

Cruciferæ,—Sinapis ramosa; S. dichotonia.

Pomaceæ,—Pyrus rosa; Punica granatum; Mangifera Indica; Ziziphus jubeba; Z. rugosa.

Gramineæ,—Hordeum triticum; Oryza sativa; Saccharum typha elephantina; and several others.

Mosses and *Lichens* are extremely rare, and the entire absence of the *Fungi* is remarkable. Among the naturalized plants in the vicinity of the town may be mentioned—Carica papaya; Musa sapientium; M. Paradisiaca; a variety of the Vitis and Morus; the Daucus, and several other common vegetables; Sesamum orientale; Amygdalus; Incana; Parkinsonia; Ficus Indica; F. religiosa; and Lawsonia inermis (the Cypress of the Greeks).

The zoological genera of this country are but little known, and much cannot be added here to illustrate them, owing to the short time I have resided in Sind. The Camelus dromedarius, or the one-humped camel, whose favourite food, the camel-thorn, the soil produces spontaneously, and in the greatest abundance, is the most valuable of the animals of burthen. The horse, tattoo, and ass† are of a smaller breed than that seen in India; but the ox, buffalo, the large-tailed sheep or Doombee, and goat, are equal in size to those of the countries beyond the Indus. Besides these, the dog, fox, jackal, mangusta, mungos or ichneumon, Hystrix fasiculata, Erinaceus, Sciurus striatus (a species of Lupus between the L. timidus and L. cuniculus), antelope, and hog, are amongst the most common quadrupeds in a wild state. Partridges, black and grey, and the other smaller gallinaceous birds, are common, as are wild geese and ducks. Varieties of the Saxicolæ, or "Stone chat Warblers," are numerous, of which the Saxicola aurita is the most beautiful bird seen in Sind. Two varieties of the Hierax or falcon,

* The present season (April) is particularly unfavourable to botanical research; but I have endeavoured not to omit any family of plants indigenous to Lower Sind. There are many varieties of *Salicorniæ*, and these and others may be added to this list, when the flowers are in more general bloom in August and September.

† The ass, though smaller, carries greater loads than ever the same animal does in India.

the horned owl, the common green parroquet, Corvus coronæ, C. infaustus, Fringilla socialis, Alanda crestata, Columba turtur, Vinago, Perdix saxatilis, Platalea leucordia, Phœnicopterus antiquorum, Alcedo, and several varieties of the Vesperitillo, occur, as well as many of the rapacious wading birds.

Sind is very rich in Hymenopterous insects: that of the genus Anthrax, or sand-flies, is very numerous, and they annoy as much as the musquitoe, after sunset, when the weather is moist. Ants, those universal destroyers of all useless or decayed matter, either animal or vegetable, are far less common than in India; but whether varieties of the Buprestis or beetle family, which in temperate regions supply their place, are numerous, I have not been able to determine. Scorpions are common among the hills; but, generally speaking, the entomology of Sind is very poor, for the eggs and chrysalides of insects are mostly smothered by the stagnant waters, and some few families only are during the inundation enabled to retire to the loftier shrubs and trees, then the few sheltering spots from a scorching atmosphere.

The Pulwa, one of the Cyprinidæ, is the fish most plentiful in the Indus, and most prized by the inhabitants of Tatta as a general food. The long-snouted Indian Gavial abounds near its embouchure, but is not known to ascend above the Delta.

It has been already stated that a rocky ridge runs from north to south for several miles parallel to the Indus, in the midst of the alluvial plain, and unconnected with the Lukkee Hills. On the summit of this ridge, directly opposite the city of Tatta, about a mile due west, is an excellent site for a military cantonment, and as such was selected by His Excellency Sir John Keane and Colonel Pottinger. This ridge is upwards of ten miles in length, with an average height of from eighty to one hundred and fifty feet above the level of the surrounding country, having its summit invariably a table-land, varying in breadth from half a mile to a mile and three quarters. With regard to the surrounding country, its position is admirable. No higher range of hills, nor wooded tract intervenes, to prevent its reaping the benefit of every wind that blows; whilst during the rains and period of inundation it is rendered exempt, by its height, and the nature of its soil, from all the disadvantages low land under such circumstances possesses.

The geological structure of the ridge is peculiar, and, as such, deserves to be described. Rising abruptly, and without any indication of the stone below, it forms a singular feature. It is composed of conglomerated and brecciated masses of limestone, resting on a calcareous base, forming a broad line or belt across the plain. Its ascent is easy and shelving, and is composed of a friable calcareous sandstone,

much mixed with fossil shells. Nearing its summit, this stone disappears, and is lost in the general base or ground, on which is superimposed the main structure of the rock,—an aggregate of angular and rounded masses, varying in size from one or two inches to a foot or two, depending on the exposure of the situation. Nearer again to the top, the whole formation is of compact cream-coloured limestone, and beneath it a softer and more recent limestone. In studying a large and compact body of this accumulation, we find all the different smaller masses are agglutinated to each other by a thin intermediate base, presenting the appearance of numerous stones closely and firmly piled together. The whole structure, the thickness of which varies from thirty to a hundred feet, in some parts appears as if at different periods one horizontal layer had been placed above another. Ravines seldom intersect the ridge; but when they do, the structure in them corresponds to what is exhibited on the sides of the ridge, except that the softer limestone becomes gradually lost in the harder, while both rest on a general base, almost uniformly of a yellow colour, with an occasional tinge of brick-red and green,—an adventitious and variable feature, arising from the presence of iron in different conditions. The base contains a very large proportion of lime, by which it is easily distinguished from the plastic clay of the neighbouring alluvial soil. The latter possesses nothing like a stratified structure, and though in many places it has some degree of hardness, yet it is most generally so very frangible as to crumble into coarse powder on being handled. The first or most recent limestone, superincumbent on this base, is composed entirely of rounded masses of a dull white cretaceous limestone, the newest formation of the whole of that series. Throughout it are no fossils, nor is it mixed with any foreign matters, being a very pure carbonate of lime; in thickness varying from ten to forty feet, and invariably underneath the harder and older limestone breccia; which is a compact cream-coloured limestone,* mixed with occasional rounded

* When roughly powdered, and thrown into diluted sulphuric acid, it effervesces briskly, quickly dissolving into a fine white powder, which, after being dried and mixed with rain-water, gives a slightly acid taste, and reddens litmus paper; from which, on the addition of prussiate of potash, a blue precipitate is thrown down, marking the presence of oxide of iron, the colouring matter of the stone. Prussiate of potash being added till it ceased to produce further effect on the solution, it was then by filtering rendered clear of its oxide, or rather prussiate of iron; the solution was next neutralized by the addition of carbonate of potash till all effervescence had ceased, and litmus paper inserted into it remained unchanged; then by evaporation a residue of carbonate of lime and magnesia was obtained. To a part of the solution, previous to evaporation, carbonate of ammonia to excess was added, and a slight precipitate of alumina was obtained, which alumina and nitrate of cobalt, by the action of the blow-pipe, became of a bright blue colour. The quantity of magnesia obtained was inferior to that of lime, but neither was accurately ascertained.

and angular masses of a calcareo-silicious sandstone, which latter, when tested by acids, effervesces with difficulty, and does not burn into friable lime. The abovenamed cream-coloured limestone breccia is very hard, yielding with difficulty to the knife. Its structure is crystalline, with a conchoidal fracture, and flinty lustre. In some masses, in consequence of a common polarity of the crystals, it assumes an imperfect schistose structure, and at first, on superficial inspection, appears to contain mica, which it does not. Sulphuric acid rapidly disengages its carbonic acid gas, and a considerable quantity of magnesia is one of its component parts. Every mass of this limestone has numerous rounded, and often concretionary grains of quartz and limestone disseminated throughout its structure; spherical and spheroidal nodules, composed of concentric coats, harder than the rock that includes them, in many portions so numerous as to give a highly oolitic appearance to the stone, also exist.

Seldom irregular, and by an easy descent in some parts, this ridge slopes down to the plain beneath. The surface of the ridge is very flat and even, having a loamy soil, in most places thin, but in others of considerable depth, so as to be capable of cultivation. It is covered with small pieces of stone, and grains of limestone and quartz, resembling a common pea seed in colour and size, similar to those found imbedded in the formation as before stated; and others, rolled up into rounded and oval shapes, unite with the loam, and give a firmness to the ground, rendering many portions of it like a hard gravel bed. This necessarily prevents all accumulation of water on its surface: heavy rain must rapidly run off into the plain below, or into small hollows, which occasionally occur, deepened purposely to retain the rain-water. One of these, to the left of the position now occupied as a camp, is of considerable size, and, if properly deepened, would contain several months' supply of water.

Milkbush, a few stunted babool trees, and thorny shrubs, are the only vegetation the soil permits; and as these are being rapidly removed, the ground will soon present a barren aspect in the immediate vicinity of the camp, which is so very desirable as regards the health of troops.

In concluding these briefs remarks on the geology of the Mukallee Hill, it may be observed that its structure marks it to be a clysmic accumulation, not belonging to the effects of the one general flood, but of a very extensive local cataclysm,—a phenomnon, the like of which it would be in vain to expect at this era in the physical processes now at work on the surface of the globe. It is difficult in any other way to account for any other power than that of diluvial currents having transported the rounded and angular masses composing this ridge into

their present position, as some of them exhibit considerable marks of friction, others little or none,—marking the respective distances they have travelled.

Several marine and fluviatile shells, varieties of genera at present existing, are found at the immediate base of the rock, buried in the earth, little changed, except in colour, and in being extremely fragile. Sometimes a correctly moulded cast of a shell is found impressed on the surface of the stone above. In the base itself are found fossil ammonites, nautilites, echinites, madrepores, conoides, and ostrea; but none have been obtained in either limestone.

The wells which have as yet been dug by the Natives, on the surface of this ridge, ought, properly speaking, to be designated rain-water reservoirs. The supply of water is consequently from tanks, either at the base, or from those formed, partly by nature and partly by art, on its summit. In the plain between Tatta and Mukallee, water is obtained by digging twelve feet below the surface; but what has been thus procured is uniformly very saline. The water, however, obtained from wells between the town and the Indus, is all fresh, abundant, and about thirty feet from the surface. In raising it for the purposes of irrigation, two sets of Persian wheels are used; the first in a lower gallery, and the second on a level with the surrounding country. Fresh water is also obtained westward of the ridge, but at a distance considerably beyond that at which it abounds in wells east of Tatta, and which renders the latter of more importance to the camp than the former.

Should boring for water be sanctioned, fresh springs will, in every probability, be discovered close to the base of that part of the ridge on which the camp is situated, and this will render the quantity procurable unlimited, and not, as it now is, uncertain, from the drying up of the tanks, or scarce, from the distance (when these are empty) it would have to be carried, from the wells beyond Tatta. In conclusion on this subject of such paramount importance,—a plentiful supply of good water,—it may be stated that the occasional rains, the presence of inundation for several months of the year, and the numerous wells near Tatta, render water abundant. Water is an article of such vital importance, more especially to a military station composed of high-caste Hindoostan men, that it should not be lightly considered in fixing the site of a cantonment. Under present circumstances, it is scarce, and will remain so for a couple of months during this year; but hereafter, when proper means are adopted for deepening the different tanks, and water bored for in a soil which, I conceive, promises well to reward the labours of the borer, it will never throughout the year be otherwise than most plentiful.

Supplies* of every description are at present in Lower Sind deficient. The resources of the country about Tatta, never called into consideration beyond their supplying a bare subsistence to the inhabitants, answer inadequately with the demands of a large army; but in a year or two, abundance of articles of consumption of every description will, I have no doubt, be produced; indeed, the physical blessings which would result from a wise and good government, would not only raise the inhabitants in the scale of human beings, but enrich the benefactors of the country,—causing, to use the language of a celebrated writer, "the face of nature to smile around them, and giving them the never-failing reward of sound policy and Christian benevolence."

Facilities which may exist for conveying military stores of all kinds throughout this recently occupied country, in communication with the different depôts in India, can scarcely be said to require description from one who writes a Topographical Report. I however deem it of importance to mention, that from Vikkur or Bomniakot, where stores can be landed from large ships from the end of October to the beginning of March, they can always be conveyed up the Indus in flat-bottomed boats, either to Tatta or higher up. If my information is correct, with the exception of the months of June, July, August, and September, vessels can anchor safely in Kurachee harbour. After disembarking the stores, they can be transmitted to Tatta thus:—Water carriage up by a creek to Gharra, from which place the land carriage is over a distance of twenty miles and a half, and that favourable to the purposes of transport. It must be understood that Gharra being a place of export, and carrying on a traffic with Kurachee for the supply of merchandize to Sind, all beasts of burthen are easily procurable in large numbers. The roads from Vikkur and Kurachee to Tatta are practicable for artillery; and the supply of water on the Kurachee road is ample in the driest seasons for one or two regiments, with their followers and carriage. The slightest outlay of labour and money would be repaid in the supply which would be obtained, the water lying near the surface, and being generally very sweet and wholesome.

Tatta is distant from Lukput Bunder eighty-two miles, a distance which is generally accomplished in the following stages:—Syudpoor, 10 miles; Gool Mahomed-ka-Gunda, 12 miles; Mugribee, 12 miles; Goonee, 28 miles; Lukput, 20 miles. From Kurachee 60½ miles.

* At present, jowaree, gram, wheat, and moong, are brought from the northward of Tatta; rice from the Delta; bajree and barley are brought some distance by land carriage. In the same latitude as this place, within forty miles, at Mugribee, great quantities of tobacco are grown; and the supply is chiefly brought from that neighbourhood. Mutt is never procurable.

H. P.—*Gooja*, 9*m*.—A small town, containing eighty mud houses, and three Banyan shops. A few sheep and bullocks procurable. Water plentiful, from wells and tanks.

H. P.—*Gharra*, 11*m*. 4*f*.—Containing three or four hundred inhabitants, and twenty-three Banyan shops, in a street running through its centre. Is situated close upon a creek, containing seven feet of water at high tides, but dry at low. Water abundant, from eight wells in the immediate vicinity, among seven gardens. Surrounding country partly alluvial, and partly sandy.

H. P.—*Wurtaijee*, 10*m*.—One well ten feet from the surface, with abundance of fresh water in it. No houses, but a Musjid, where some Fakeers live, is close to the well. Road good, along the banks of the Gharra Creek.

H. P.—*Peepree*, 6*m*.—No village. An old Dhurumsala, on the bank of a dry nulla, in which are two wells of good water, within fourteen feet of the surface. No other supplies procurable. Road generally sandy.

H. P.—*Hajee-jee-Lundee*, 10*m*.—A few reed huts. Good water, from an extensive tank. No wells. No supplies procurable. Surrounding country thick tamarisk jungle. Road good; both sides of it skirted for many miles with the ruins of tombs, &c.

Lundee Goree, or *Goree-jee-Lundee*, 6*m*.—A few reed huts, and two wells, not containing enough water to supply a regiment on the line of march.

H. P.—*Kurachee*, 8*m*.—A large populous seaport. Supplies of every description abundant. Road rather rocky, and intersected by several broad sandy nullas.*

General direction of the whole line of road nearly due west. Tatta is distant by land from Hyderabad sixty miles:—1st stage, Chilleyah, 8 miles; Hillayah, 10 miles; Soondah, 8 miles; Jerruk, 9 miles; Teekkor, 9 miles; Waree Mull Meer, 7 miles; Hyderabad, 10 miles;—and by water seventy-two miles; from Vikkur, by the river Indus, sixty-five miles.

The following extract from the Private Journal of a military officer will afford all the information I am in possession of regarding the Gharra Creek:—

"Quitted Kurachee on the 1st of April, and arrived in twelve hours at Gharra, distance forty-eight miles, passing the Ghisree Creek, which runs about NW. in the direction of Kurachee camp, from which it

* Taken from personal observations, made on the line of march with the 26th Regiment N. I. The places distinguished by the letters H. P. denote where the regiment halted.

would appear to be about eight miles distant. The creek is very narrow, and somewhat tortuous; however, it has a mid-channel capable of admitting a very large class of boats up to Gharra, where any stores can be landed, and placed in safety a few yards from the boats. The Ghisree Creek, if equally accessible, would prove of great utility: it would not only lessen the expense of the conveyance of stores, but would expedite their transmission to Gharra and Tatta, especially in the monsoon, since by this communication a distance of twenty-four miles, roughly calculated, would be gained, and the boats perfectly freed from the effects of heavy weather. The advantages of this creek in another respect would emanate in such as might accrue from trade; and no doubt ere long, when cultivation extends, and the Ameers adopt a different mode of collecting their revenue, the benefit would soon be apparent.

"Gharra is a Jageer, and the Jageerdar is answerable for all robberies, &c. in the neighbourhood. A few miles from Gharra the country improves much in appearance, and the number of watercourses prove how much cultivation could be increased by an energetic population, free from the weighty oppression of the Ameers. Gooja is about twelve miles due east of Gharra. The appearance of the country indicates great richness of soil, and I should be inclined to pronounce it well adapted for the cultivation of the sugarcane. Irrigation is the general mode adopted for watering the fields, the water being received into canals from the Indus, which are filled at the annual inundation, and from these small cuts are made so as to distribute the water."

As the waters, after the full inundation, begin to subside,—after having previously swamped the country all round the town of Tatta, and extended as far as Gharra westward, and all round the Mukallee ridge of rock,—this climate necessarily becomes more unhealthy than at any other season. It is at that period that the inhabitants begin to experience aguish disorders, from which they are generally otherwise exempt. This commences about October, and ends some time either in November, or in the middle of December.

Quotidian, tertian, and quartan intermittents all occur; and though the last is dreaded as the most difficult to cure, yet the first is the most fatal type the fever assumes. It generally commences about the period of new or full moon, with a cold fit of some hours' duration, followed by heat of skin, which in many cases continues for several days, accompanied with thirst and headache. Without any other means of inducing perspiration than copious draughts of warm water, the sick are left to nature; for it is only when this fortunate perspiration ensues that the Native doctor, should one be in attendance, first administers medicine, in the shape of a purgative composed of wild colocynth pulp,

rosebuds, tamarinds, and black grapes. The action of this dose is frequently so favourable that recovery takes place. It is, say the Hakeems of Tatta, because the body is hot, and it is the custom of the country to give persons labouring under fever only warm water in the hot stage, that no other remedy is had recourse to; and should this their only remedial measure fail to cause diathesis, their patients uniformly die. Even perspiration, and the operation of the purgative, does not always cure the case; for sometimes cramps, accompanied by vomiting, hasten a fatal termination.

Recoveries from a first attack of fever commonly relapse at the following spring, and continue to do so for one, two, or three months, depending on the severity of the first attack, and the general constitution of the individual. Invariably, when these relapses continue for some months, enlargement of the spleen follows,—an affection seldom fatal, but which causes both men and women to become thin, and look prematurely old. Diseases of the liver and spleen are confounded together by the Natives. Three varieties are distinguished:—1*st*, the spleen of plethora, which is generally attended with epistaxis; 2*nd*, the spleen of wind, which comes on about the spring, with enlargement after eating; and 3*rd*, the spleen of water, which is uniformly accompanied by jaundice,—the most fatal type, always a sequela of a fever, which has its origin in bad food,* and other similar causes. Besides affections of the spleen and liver, their fevers have often a fatal termination by dysentery, which is otherwise a rare disorder; and by dropsy, for which the operation of tapping is sometimes successfully performed. Independent of the fevers arising from the effects of the inundation, a remittent form of this disease occasionally attacks the inhabitants, who are much exposed to the sun in the hot weather, preparing the ground for the crops. From description, this however is more like *coup de soleil* than violent remittent fever: sometimes the person is struck instantly dead; if not, unless copious epistaxis ensues, the recovery is protracted for many days.

Many individuals are said to be afflicted with fever in Tatta, where the drying process is going on most rapidly. Every house, on an average, has one case of fever, and for one or two months three or four die daily. Nevertheless it is not fevers that the inhabitants dread,†

* An intelligent Native ascribed the greater part of the diseases of Tatta to the people eating large quantities of Pulwa, which is an exceedingly rich fish; and their being possessed of no medicines. Fevers, he said, were brought on very frequently by drinking the stagnant waters of the inundation; for he had remarked that those who drank river or well water were more exempt from ague than those who did otherwise.

† In Bagdad and Bussora, I have known one shopkeeper say to another—"I feel fever coming on, look after my goods"; which, if agreed to, the person attacked rolled himself up in

but cholera and small-pox; both of which scourges have within the last few months committed very considerable ravages, not only in Tatta, but in Hyderabad and elsewhere. Cholera appears every fourth or fifth year in Sind, and is uniformly very fatal. In 1832, many hundreds of the inhabitants of Tatta alone died, and during the past month of March, as long as the epidemic was at its height, twenty souls daily perished. Small-pox is an endemic disease in Sind, and rages every second or third year, commencing at Bhala and Kurachee, and then spreading to Tatta. Fevers are the endemic of October and November; and cholera, when it does appear, of March. Small-pox occurs at no certain periods, and is always a disease very much more fatal, in proportion to the numbers attacked, than is the case with fever.

The following facts connected with small-pox, and communicated to me by Mr. Masson, a gentleman well known for his very persevering and highly successful antiquarian researches in Central and Upper Asia, will, I am sure, be interesting.

In the province of Lus, along the sea coast south-west of Kurachee, of which Bhala is the capital, and Sonmeeanee the port, the milkers of camels affirm that they have a disease called Photo Shootur. Small-pox in Lus is designated Photo, so that the term Photo Shootur implies the small-pox of the camel, which is an eruption on the udder of that animal, not more violent, and in its pustule similar to that on the udder of the cow. The camels, while thus afflicted, continue to give milk, which is largely drank by the inhabitants; but both the men and women who milk them are invariably seized with a pustular disease, similar to that on the camel's udder, on their hands and arms, never extending above the elbows. No one has ever been known to die from this eruption, and the Natives themselves remark, that those who have had the Photo Shootur are uniformly exempt from small-pox, which is a disease occasionally endemic in the district.

Inoculation* is known in Lus, the virus being taken from a person labouring with small-pox, and inserted on the wrist of healthy individuals (children), who, if the operation is successful, which is not always the case, are seized with small-pox, not limited to the hand and arm, but general over the body; commonly mild, yet in some cases fatal.

Although the inhabitants are aware that the Photo Shootur† is a

his carpet, and when the fit of ague was over, rose, thanked his friend, and went on selling his merchandize. On inquiry, I found similar instances were of daily occurrence in both towns, so little do the fevers of the inundation injure those living on the banks of the Euphrates and Tigris.

* Inoculation is also known in Kabool: there it is generally performed by the Syuds, who frequently make two or three trials before succeeding.

† Mr. Masson could not recollect at what season of the year it is prevalent.

preventive against small-pox, they do not inoculate with its virus, in a manner similar to what they do from the small-pox pustule, which frequently brings on a disease believed by these people to be beyond the control of the Native doctors ; insomuch so, that the relatives of the sick proceed to the shrine of some favourite saint, there, by propitiatory offerings, to invoke aid in favour of the diseased.

All affections of the eye are rare, and the number of blind people in Tatta do not exceed forty.

Rheumatism is common in the cold season, and often, by chronicity, renders the individual afflicted a cripple. When chronic, the method of cure is by pressing heated china plates on the part affected,—actual cautery is but little resorted to; and, with the exception of purgatives, no other medicines are exhibited.

Stone in the bladder is unknown in Tatta.

Gonorrhœa and syphilis are common, and secondary symptoms frequently follow. The Tatta children die in considerable numbers ; but their diseases are very ill-defined, the common answer being, "They gradually pine away."

A fatal termination frequently attends *accouchment* in October and November, but at other seasons rarely : a sort of puerperal fever seems to be the cause of death.

The above remarks on the diseases peculiar to the Natives of Lower Sind have been obtained from Native doctors, and other intelligent persons. My own practice in a Native regiment, comparatively very healthy, during two months, does not allow me to add any remarks of my own; so that in venturing to offer an opinion as to whether the position now occupied as a military cantonment will be healthy or unhealthy, I do so trusting the favourable impression I entertain of the salubrity of this station will not after experience be belied.

During the greater portion of the year, the dry, clean, open situation on which the cantonment is built, must be favourable to the health of troops, European as well as Native, in a country little burdened with jungle, and reaping the full benefit of the north-west and other winds. It must, however, be expected, that when the neighbouring low ground is half inundated, and, consequently, when growth and decay are going forward with vigour, that fevers will be more prevalent than at other seasons ; but these will never be so severe or fatal as if the troops had been stationed on the plain below.* Nor can any just comparison be induced, from what occurs in the city of Tatta, or brought forward as a proof of what is likely to happen in the camp, during the period of

* An impression appears to me to have been current, that the cantonment was to be formed on the low ground about Tatta.

inundation. The miasmata which affect those living in the town cannot be so concentrated in their powers as to produce the same injurious consequences in the cantonment; for, says Bassingault, "It is everywhere remarked that a difference of level is enough to exempt the inhabitants from every danger." The difference of a few feet in height was considered by Dr. J. Hunter to give a comparative security to soldiers quartered in the same building; and Dr. Johnson remarks that miasmata possess such a gravity that they can never rise in the atmosphere, unless assisted by a lighter body, which carries them into it. Various obstacles, he adds, form barriers which they cannot pass, and against which they deposit themselves. The last-mentioned author adduces many instances of places in Italy, in the midst of malarious districts, which, from being elevated, enjoy a salubrity undisturbed;* and the characteristics of all the Bengal stations on the banks of the Ganges are the same, differing only in degree of salubrity from their elevation and dryness.† In opposition to the foregoing statements I must, however, in candour add, that it is the opinion of M. Regaud deLisle, that marsh miasm appears to be active at a height of between 682 to 1,000 feet above the place of its origin; and that Montfalcon is of opinion that the distance to which marshy exhalations may extend, by gradual diffusion, is from 1,400 to 1,800 feet of elevation, and from 600 to 1,000 feet in a horizontal direction. I should therefore, from the statements of these latter authorities, be wrong, did I not anticipate that in September, October, and November, the months when fevers are prevalent throughout India, fever will also be prevalent in the cantonment of Tatta.

It has been said that "Sind is exempt from no disease that flesh is heir to,"‡—a statement I will not attempt to deny; for I have always remarked that abject poverty is the soil in which most epidemic diseases spring up in every country,—upon the poor, ill-fed, harassed population, living in closeness and filth, do the diseases peculiar to this country fall. There is, however, little probability that the well-fed, well-clothed servant of Government, little exposed to the injurious qualities of the air, soil, and water, will suffer much in the catalogue of diseases enumerated, and which have their origin more from the present condition

* Sir John Pringle remarked that the upper part of Ghent was uniformly very healthy, while those living in the lower part suffered from fevers, &c.

† "Ranken on Public Health in India."

On the banks of the Runn of Kutch, which is annually flooded by salt water, leaving a surface of 6,000 square miles exposed, the inhabitants are healthier, and freer from fevers, than in any other part of that country, or Parkur, a district of Sind bordering. This singular fact has been particularly noticed by me in a paper on the Topography of Kutch, printed in the "Medical and Physical Journal of Calcutta," in 1837.

‡ "Visit to the Court of Sind," by Dr. Burnes, K.H.

of the people than from climate itself; for it cannot be supposed that a cantonment kept clear from animal and vegetable matter, with houses well ventilated, and built more for the purposes of health than merely harbouring the greatest mass of people in the smallest possible space, will not be totally different from the filthy, crowded, and ill-constructed cities of Sind, with their animal and vegetable heaps exposed to a scorching sun. For, says Assalini, "At this day the lakes, the marshes, and the filthiness which one finds in the cities of Lower Egypt—a country with which Lower Sind much assimilates—are the principal causes of the frequent diseases to which they are subject, and which never can be eradicated until we have found means to purify the atmosphere of their environs. The inhabitants of the citadel of Cairo, which is favourably built on an eminence, during the plague of 1791, were exempt from the disease, which laid waste the lower town, with which they nevertheless continued to hold constant intercourse.

I have attempted to show that the local site of the cantonment is freed in a great measure from the causes of disease prevalent in cities, and the generality of military stations: I shall therefore conclude with the following quotation from an author justly celebrated for the soundness of his views:—"Neither irregular seasons and bad weather alone; nor "the effluvia from putrefying animal and vegetable substances alone; nor "vitiated bodily secretions, however concentrated, alone; nor even "diseased human secretions, the product of fever, however aggravated, "alone; whatever marvellous stories may be attached by different authors "to any of these particular circumstances, will ever be likely to "produce a general pestilence. This opinion is hazarded, not without "being duly weighed, after a careful inquiry into the specific effects "of these several causes, viz. atmospheric vicissitudes, animal and "vegetable putrefaction, malaria, whether from marshes or the mouths "of great rivers, cities or camps, famine, or bad food, and the con-"centrated poison of human filth and human disease";*—a quotation implying that it is not alone the presence of miasmata from the inundation that will be the cause of fevers being ever very rife in the cantonment of Tatta, but that other co-operating causes must be conjoined, from which perhaps no cantonment in a tropical climate is exempt, and this one less so than Indian cantonments usually are.

European troops will be, generally speaking, free from the numerous diseases brought on by the indiscriminate use of ardent spirits, for the facility of procuring liquor can never be very great in the vicinity of Tatta;†

* "Hancock on Epidemics."

† The liquor of the country is made from Jagree or coarse sugar, rendered pungent by the flowers of the babool tree, or flavoured by sandalwood. Its average price is about one rupee a quart.

and where Europeans cannot obtain ardent spirits with ease, they must always be comparatively healthy.*

As a precautionary measure, it would be necessary, in building barracks, to raise them above the level of the ground considerably, as the nature of marsh miasm is such, that should it travel over the hill in doing so, it would not rise much above its level, and thus pass over without injury. Glass doors and windows would also be advisable, to shut out, at particular seasons, any miasmatous smell which may arise from the plain below, morning and evening, and which strong winds may blow up. Independent of this, nothing tends so much, in my opinion, to increase the comfort of men in barracks, as well constructed glazed doors and windows; and for an hospital they are indispensably necessary. It would also be proper, during the last months of the inundation, not to permit soldiers, whether European or Native, to be in the plain after sunset: this strict roll-calls will invariably prevent.

The benefit of change of air is most conspicuous in the numerous family of æguish disorders, and the simple measure of change of air is often in itself sufficient to remove the disease, and the more promptly the change is made, the more effective it is likely to prove. No place in India commands such eminent advantages in this respect as Tatta. In a few hours a soldier labouring under fever can be transported from an inland country to the sea coast, by the easiest means of conveyance possible, viz. a few miles of land carriage, and the remainder of the journey in a boat, in which the full advantage of the sea air is reaped, till he reaches Kurachee, where, if a sanatarium is established, he will meet with every comfort and medical attendance: thus few cases, from the rapidity of the change, and its being so perfect, will require to proceed to Bombay; on the contrary, they will generally in a short time be returned to their duty.

* See some very able remarks, by Dr. A. Gibson, in Vol. I. of the "Bombay Medical and Physical Society's Transactions," pp. 60—63, when writing on the health of Europeans stationed in the cantonment of Kaira, in Guzerat.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

MADE AT

CAMP NEAR TATTA,

DURING THE MONTHS OF MARCH, APRIL, AND MAY, 1839.

Meteorological Register *for the Month of March* 1839.

Camp near Tatta, 1st April 1839.

Days of the Month.	Phases of the Moon.	Temperature in the Shade, and Depression of Moist Bulb.												Days on which Rain fell.	Winds.		Appearance of the Atmosphere.	State of the Sick in the 26th Regt. N. I.		
		Sunrise.			9 A. M.			2 P. M.			Sunset.				Direction.	Force.		Daily Admissions.	Daily Discharges.	Daily Deaths.
		Dry Bulb.	Moist Bulb.	Difference.	Dry Bulb.	Moist Bulb.	Difference.	Dry Bulb.	Moist Bulb.	Difference.	Dry Bulb.	Moist Bulb.	Difference.							
1		52°	48°	4°	81°	67°	14°	89°	69°	20°	79°	69°	10°		Easterly.	Strong.	A. M. cirri; P. M. clear; night cold, continuing so till morning.	3	2	..
2		50	46	4	85	69	16	90	77	13	78	70	8		Easterly.	Moderate.	A. M. hazy; cirri; P. M. clear; wind westerly; night cloudy.	3	4	..
3		56	50	6	82	72	10	89	78	11	80	72	8		SW.	Gentle.	A. M. generally clear; P. M. cirri; heavy dew.	1	..	..
4		54	50	4	87	81	6	86	78	8	78	75	3		SW.	Fine.	Cirri; generally clear; heavy dew; night cool and pleasant.	3	..	..
5		56	53	3	86	77	9	95	85	10	80	76	4		Westerly.	Fine.	Cirri; fine weather; heavy dew; night cool and pleasant.	2	3	..
6		60	56	4	82	76	6	95	85	10	78	75	3		W.	Moderate.	Cirri; day hot, but tempered by the westerly breezes; no dew.	1	3	..
7		62	56	6	82	76	6	94	85	9	79	76	3		SW.	Fine.	Cirrocumuli; P. M. wind strong; heavy dews.	1	..	..
8	☾	70	69	1	83	80	3	96	88	8	75	72	3		SW.	Strong.	Cirrocumuli; gusts of wind; night warm; dew.	2	9	..
9		72	71	1	80	76	4	93	78	15	79	75	4		SW.	Very strong.	Cirrostrati; P. M. moderate; night calm; pleasant.	3	..	..
10		72	69	3	81	75	6	95	79	16	81	76	5		SSW.	Very strong.	Clear; sunset moderate; night cloudy; dew.	1	..	..
11		72	68	4	83	74	9	92	68	24	88	80	8		NE.	Strong.	Clear; hot wind; night pleasant; no dew.	..	..	..
12		74	73	1	85	79	6	93	79	14	88	81	7		Northerly	Strong.	Cirrocumuli; sunset moderate; night cool; dew.	4	7	..
13		56	52	4	83	78	5	95	89	6	86	83	3		Westerly.	Moderate.	Cirrocumuli; atmosphere hazy; dew.	1	..	..
14		63	63	0	81	79	2	93	84	9	84	79	5		NW.	Moderate.	Cirri; fine weather; night cool and pleasant.	2	..	..
15	●	70	86	2	78	75	3	91	81	10	80	77	3		Westerly.	Moderate.	Cumuli; hazy; morning and evening cool.	4	3	..
16		72	70	2	79	75	4	91	81	10	80	76	4		Northerly	Nearly calm	Thick haze; P. M. cloudy; night cool.	1	1	..
17		71	68	3	80	73	7	98	82	16	80	72	8		Northerly	Gentle.	Thick haze; P. M. cumuli; day very oppressive; night cool.	3	4	..
18		76	71	5	80	75	5	88	81	7	78	75	3	Rain.	Westerly.	Moderate.	Nimbi; a few drops of rain; P. M. wind SW.; night cloudy and calm.	4	4	..
19		76	74	2	76	75	1	70	68	2	72	68	4	Rain.	Southerly	Violent.	A. M. heavy fall of rain; thunder and lightning; P. M. cloudy.	1	3	..
20		64	60	4	71	63	8	86	73	13	74	66	8		Northerly	Moderate.	A. M. cloudy; P. M. clear; wind E.; night cold.	3	3	..
21		63	60	3	76	70	6	86	72	14	78	68	10		Easterly.	Fine.	A. M. hazy and cloudy; P. M. clear; wind NE.	..	1	..
22	☽	66	62	4	74	67	7	91	80	11	80	72	6		E.	Strong.	A. M. hazy; P. M. clear; night cool; morning and evening pleasant.	1	..	..
23		72	68	4	87	78	9	99	84	15	85	78	7		Calm.	....	Morning cloudy; cirri; P. M. westerly breeze.	1	4	..
24		71	70	1	81	76	5	91	81	10	80	75	5		SW.	Strong.	Cirrocumuli; calm at night, and cloudy.	3	1	1

25		72	68	4	81	76	5	91	80	11	79	71	8	SW.	Strong.	Cirri; P. M. clear; morning and evening pleasant.	2	4	..
26		74	72	2	85	77	8	101	82	19	85	75	10	Northerly	Strong.	A. M. cirri; P. M. clear; for one hour wind hot; night cool.	2	2	..
27		80	76	4	85	76	9	102	85	17	85	75	10	Northerly	Mild.	Clear; the wind occasionally shifted to the eastward.	3	3	..
28		72	70	2	89	80	9	99	87	12	90	78	12	W.	Fine.	Clear; P. M. wind strong; cirri; night cool.	1	3	..
29		74	74	0	86	79	7	101	86	15	90	78	12	W.	Fine.	A. M. hazy; P. M. clear; morning and evening pleasant.	3	..	..
30	○	68	62	6	85	72	13	102	83	19	90	78	12	SW.	Moderate.	A. M. clear; P. M. wind south, hot; evening calm; night cool.	2	1	..
31		68	66	2	85	75	10	100	83	17	89	80	9	SW.	Moderate.	Clear and pleasant; night delicious; morning bracing.	2	2	..

Results, with Remarks.

Mean temperature	81°31	Extreme depression of moist bulb	24°
Mean maximum	96°8	Average heat in the sun at 2 P. M.	122°
Mean minimum	67°7	Days on which rain fell	2
Mean daily variation	30°11	Quantity of rain	4 inches 50 cents.
Extreme maximum	102°	Prevailing winds	South and West.
Extreme minimum	50°	Latitude and longitude of Tatta	24° 44′ N., 68° 17′ E.
Mean depression of moist bulb	6°24		

Average daily sick in hospital 26th Regt. N. I.	22.5
Strength of the regiment, including all ranks entitled to medical attendance	942

The heat of the day, though the thermometer stood often high, was seldom oppressive; and the nights were always cool. The winds almost constantly blew from seaward, and were never very hot,—on the contrary, refreshing: it was their absence that rendered a few days during the month somewhat oppressive.

A few cases of cholera broke out in the regiment after a heavy fall of rain; but on moving the camp from the alluvial plain up to the rocky ridge,—the proposed site of the cantonment,—it almost instantaneously ceased. One case only died.

N.B.—The thermometers were hung up between the walls of a subaltern's tent.

Meteorological Register *for the Month of April* 1839.

Camp near Tatta, 1st May 1839.

Days of the Month.	Phases of the Moon.	Temperature in the Shade, and Depression of Moist Bulb.												Days on which Rain fell.	Winds.		Appearance of the Atmosphere.	State of the Sick in the 26th Regt. N. I.		
		Sunrise.			9 A. M.			2 P. M.			Sunset.				Direction.	Force.		Daily Admissions.	Daily Discharges.	Daily Deaths.
		Dry Bulb.	Moist Bulb.	Difference.	Dry Bulb.	Moist Bulb.	Difference.	Dry Bulb.	Moist Bulb.	Difference.	Dry Bulb.	Moist Bulb.	Difference.							
1		72°	71°	1°	85°	78°	7°	98°	83°	15°	83°	79°	4°		NW.	Strong.	Cumulostratus; dew; evening calm; night cool.	3	2	..
2		69	69	0	75	73	2	101	83	18	84	78	6		NNW.	Strong.	Clear; heavy dew; P. M. calm; morning and evening calm.	4	4	..
3		70	69	1	81	76	5	104	87	17	90	85	5		W.	Moderate.	Clear; heavy dew; P. M. cirri; morning and evening calm.	3	2	..
4		73	70	3	87	79	8	104	85	19	89	80	9		W.	Moderate.	Dew; clear; wind hot; evening and night cool.	1	..	..
5		73	72	1	91	79	12	104	85	19	85	80	5		W by N.	Moderate.	Dew; clear; morning and evening cloudy, and cool.	2	6	..
6		70	69	1	85	75	10	96	79	17	90	86	4		Westerly.	Light.	A. M. calm and clear; P. M. light breezes.	2	2	..
7	☾	70	69	1	83	76	7	101	80	21	91	86	5		SW.	Moderate.	Dew; cirri; P. M. wind hot; night cool.	1	2	..
8		76	74	2	81	76	5	95	83	12	85	79	6		W.	Moderate.	A. M. heavy dew; cumulostrati; night clear; SW. wind, strong.	4	3	..
9		72	71	1	82	77	5	101	86	15	91	83	7		SW.	Light.	A. M. dew; clear and mild; P. M. wind easterly, and variable.	3	1	..
10		72	70	2	87	78	9	103	85	18	93	85	7		Easterly.	Light.	A. M. dew; calm and clear; sunset wind westerly, and strong.	2	..	..
11		73	70	3	81	76	5	106	88	18	95	90	5		Calm.	....	A. M. dew; clear; P. M. wind northerly, strong; night hot.	1	1	..
12		74	73	1	85	80	5	108	88	20	92	82	10		NW.	Light.	A. M. dew; clear; P. M. hot; night hot.	2	3	..
13		74	70	4	86	82	4	99	86	13	86	80	6		Westerly.	Strong.	A. M. dew; cirrostrati; P. M. clear; night hot.	1	4	..
14	●	75	74	1	84	80	4	94	85	9	90	86	4		W.	Strong.	A. M. dew; clear; P. M. clouds of sand; night cloudy and hot.	1	1	..
15		78	76	2	90	82	8	100	84	16	88	80	8		Westerly.	Very strong	A. M. dew; atmosphere loaded with fine dust; evening strati; night pleasant.	1	2	..
16		76	76	0	84	79	5	104	90	14	89	82	7		Westerly.	Strong.	A. M. dew; cirrostrati; P. M. clear, and moderate.	3	..	..
17		76	75	1	84	80	4	99	86	13	86	80	6		Westerly.	Strong.	A. M. dew; clear; dusty; sunset mild; cirrostrati; night cool.	..	..	..
18		76	73	3	83	80	3	101	83	18	85	78	7		Westerly.	Strong.	A. M. dew; cirrostrati; P. M. clear; dusty; wind in gusts; night cool.	1	3	..
19		78	75	3	85	80	5	99	83	16	86	76	10		Westerly.	Moderate.	A. M. dew; cirrostrati; pleasant; P. M. clear.	3	..	..
20	☽	80	76	4	88	80	8	107	86	21	95	90	5	Rain.	Variable.	Squally.	A. M. dew; heavy squall during the night, with a few drops of rain; nimbi; wind easterly; P. M. calm and clear; evening strati, with distant thunder.	..	2	..
21		79	75	4	85	80	5	108	84	24	93	82	11		Variable.	Strong.	A. M. dew; cumuli and nimbi; P. M. calm; cumulostrati.	..	2	..
22		79	77	2	84	80	4	102	82	20	90	83	7		Calm.	....	A. M. dew; strati; P. M. clear; wind southerly.	4	1	..
23		77	76	1	85	77	8	104	85	19	88	80	8		SW.	Moderate.	A. M. dew; generally clear; P. M. cirri; night cool.	..	3	..

24	77	76	2	85	80	5	102	82	18	88	80	8	SW.	Moderate.	A. M. pleasant; generally clear; night cool.	3	2	..
25	77	75	3	84	77	7	95	82	13	88	82	6	SW.	Strong.	Cirri; atmosphere clouded with dust; morning and evening very pleasant.	..	2	..
26	78	76	2	85	79	6	90	84	6	84	73	11	SW.	Strong.	Clear; weather very pleasant; night cool.	1	2	..
27	80	78	2	88	81	7	95	78	17	85	80	5	W.	Moderate.	A. M. cumulostrati; dusty; P. M. mild and calm.	2	2	..
28	79	77	2	89	82	7	93	83	10	84	79	5	W.	Strong.	A. M. cumulostrati; dusty; night cool.	..	1	..
29	80	78	2	86	80	6	96	84	12	80	76	4	W.	Moderate.	A. M. cumuli; P. M. clear and pleasant.	1	..	..
30	80	79	1	89	80	9	93	84	9	85	76	9	W.	Moderate.	A. M. cumuli; day pleasant; evening calm.	1	..	..

Results, with Remarks.

Mean temperature	85°9	Extreme depression of moist bulb	24°
Mean maximum	91°11	Average heat in the sun at 2 P. M.	128°
Mean minimum	79°6	Days on which rain fell	1
Mean daily variation	21°3	Quantity of rain	A few drops only.
Extreme maximum	108°	Prevailing winds	Westerly & South-west.
Extreme minimum	69°	Latitude and longitude of Tatta	24° 44′ N., 68° 17′ E.
Mean depression of moist bulb	6°30		

Average daily sick in hospital 26th Regt. N. I.	19.1
Strength of the regiment, including all ranks entitled to medical attendance	942

The climate of Tatta, though it has been hot during several days in the bygone month, has been far from unpleasant. In comparing this cantonment with others in India in the month of April, the comparison is decidedly in favour of Tatta; for with the exception of one day, nothing like a hot wind has been experienced, and although one or two nights were hot, yet the others were uniformly cool. The mornings and evenings have been truly delicious.

The station has been very healthy: our fevers were mild, and yielded easily to treatment.

N.B.—The thermometers were hung up between the walls of a subaltern's tent.

Meteorological Register *for the Month of May* 1839.

Camp near Tatta, 1st June 1839.

Days of the Month.	Phases of the Moon.	Temperature in the Shade, and Depression of Moist Bulb.												Winds.		Appearance of the Atmosphere.	State of the Sick in the 26th Regt. N. I.		
		Sunrise.			9 A. M.			2 P. M.			Sunset.								
		Dry Bulb.	Moist Bulb.	Difference.	Dry Bulb.	Moist Bulb.	Difference.	Dry Bulb.	Moist Bulb.	Difference.	Dry Bulb.	Moist Bulb.	Difference.	Direction.	Force.		Daily Admissions.	Daily Discharges.	Daily Deaths.
1		79°	78°	1°	84°	80°	4°	97°	83°	14°	88°	83°	5°	Westerly.	Strong.	A. M. cumuli; P. M. atmosphere loaded with dust, but sky clear.	2	1	..
2		78	77	1	85	79	6	98	85	13	90	85	5	Westerly.	Strong.	A. M. clear and fine; P. M. ditto, and dusty; night cool.	1	..	..
3		80	78	2	90	86	4	100	88	12	89	84	5	Westerly.	Moderate.	A. M. cirrocumuli; P. M. cirri; generally clear.	..	1	..
4		80	78	2	86	81	5	99	87	12	85	80	5	Westerly.	Moderate.	A. M. stratus; P. M. clear; morning and evening pleasant.	1	1	..
5		78	76	2	85	83	2	96	83	13	84	80	4	Westerly.	Moderate.	A. M. cirri; P. M. clear.	2	1	..
6	☾	79	78	1	85	82	3	102	85	17	86	82	4	Westerly.	Moderate.	A. M. cumuli; P. M. clear; atmosphere loaded with dust.	..	..	..
7		83	80	3	90	81	9	101	83	18	90	83	7	Westerly.	Very strong.	A. M. and P. M. cumuli; atmosphere loaded with fine dust.	3	..	..
8		80	80	0	91	82	9	96	84	12	88	85	3	Westerly.	Moderate.	A. M. and P. M. cumuli; dust; evening and morning pleasant.	2	1	..
9		84	80	4	92	82	10	96	84	12	88	86	2	Westerly.	Moderate.	A. M. cirrocumuli; P. M. cumuli; pleasant.	2	2	..
10		88	87	1	90	84	6	97	84	13	89	81	8	Westerly.	Moderate.	A. M. cumulostrati; P. M. cumuli.	2	2	..
11		81	79	2	90	81	9	96	85	11	90	86	4	Westerly.	Moderate.	A. M. cirri; P. M. cumuli; morning and evening cool.	3	..	..
12		81	78	3	84	81	3	98	95	3	89	85	4	Westerly.	Light.	A. M. cumuli; P. M. cirri, and generally clear; temperate.	1	..	..
13	●	80	79	1	86	84	2	94	82	12	89	86	3	Westerly.	Moderate.	A. M. cumulostrati; generally cloudy and pleasant weather.	6	4	..
14		80	79	1	93	84	9	97	85	12	92	89	3	Westerly.	Moderate.	A. M. and P. M. cumuli; night strong and cold wind blowing.	..	3	..
15		84	83	1	93	86	7	95	84	11	91	88	3	SW.	Moderate.	A. M. cumuli; P. M. cumulostrati.	4	2	..
16		83	82	1	92	88	4	97	89	8	90	86	4	SW.	Moderate.	A. M. cirri; P. M. clear and fine.	..	6	..
17		80	78	2	90	87	3	94	89	5	90	86	4	SW.	Moderate.	A. M. strati; P. M. clear and cool; fresh breezes morning and evening.	2	3	..
18		83	80	3	88	82	6	96	86	10	91	88	3	Southerly	Light.	A. M. cirri; P. M. cumuli.	3	2	..
19		88	83	5	91	85	6	98	87	11	93	86	7	NW.	Moderate.	A. M. cumuli; P. M. clear; night warm.	3	3	..
20	☽	88	84	4	92	86	6	98	86	12	92	88	4	Northerly	Light.	A. M. cloudy; P. M. wind variable; cirri; night hot.	4	5	..
21		87	83	4	92	82	10	97	83	14	90	86	4	Easterly.	Light.	A. M. hazy and cloudy; P. M. hot wind; night warm.	4	2	..
22		86	84	2	90	84	6	95	85	10	92	88	4	Westerly.	Variable.	A. M. cumuli and nimbi; slight rain; P. M. clear and fine.	2	1	..
23		88	80	2	93	81	12	98	83	15	93	85	8	Easterly.	Light.	Hazy; wind hot; day oppressive; night westerly wind, light.	7	2	..
24		89	82	7	92	83	9	97	85	12	94	88	6	Easterly.	Light.	Morning very cloudy; day hazy; wind hot; night warm.	4	7	..
25		88	83	5	91	85	6	96	86	10	91	88	3	Easterly.	Moderate.	Generally cloudy and hazy; wind hot; somewhat oppressive.	8	4	..

26		86	84	2	89	85	4	95	86	9	92	88	4	Southerly	Moderate.	A. M. cumuli; P. M. strati; cooler and finer weather.	3	1	..
27		86	84	2	91	86	5	98	83	15	95	85	10	Southerly	Moderate.	A. M. cloudy; P. M. wind variable, and hot; night westerly, cool breezes.	4	12	..
28	○	89	83	6	93	85	8	97	86	11	93	88	5	SW.	Moderate.	Generally cloudy throughout; night cool; before sunrise hot and close.	1	2	..
29		88	84	4	91	86	5	95	88	7	92	89	3	Westerly.	Mild.	Morning pleasant; P. M. clear; night warm, with a strong west wind.	4	3	..
30		86	81	5	90	83	7	94	84	10	90	86	7	Westerly.	Strong.	A. M. cumulostrati; P. M. cirri, and clear.	3	2	..
31		84	81	3	88	83	5	93	86	7	90	87	3	Westerly.	Moderate.	A. M. cloudy throughout; P. M. stratus to westward; night cool.	..	5	..

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Results, with Remarks.

Mean temperature	88°68	Extreme depression of moist bulb	15°
Mean maximum	90° 7	Average heat in the sun at 2 P. M.	118°
Mean minimum	86° 6	Days on which rain fell	1
Mean daily variation	14° 1	Quantity of rain	Very trifling.
Extreme maximum	102°	Prevailing winds	Westerly.
Extreme minimum	78°	Latitude and longitude of Tatta	24° 44′ N., 68° 17′ E.
Mean depression of moist bulb	6° 2		

Average daily sick in hospital 26th Regt. N. I. 22.9
Strength of the regiment, including all ranks entitled to medical attendance 942

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The past month of May has, with the exception of four days, when an easterly wind blew, been remarkably pleasant, when compared with India at this season of the year. The only annoyance was the atmosphere being occasionally loaded with fine dust. The nights were almost uniformly cool, and the mornings and evenings, unless when specified, cool and pleasant.

Until the 27th of May, diarrhœa was the chief disease in the regiment, having its origin from the water in the wells, which, becoming nearly exhausted, was brackish; but when the river Indus filled the different watercourses, which it did on the 28th, this disease almost ceased. Few cases of fever have occurred. Occasionally a slight precipitate of dew was observed.

N.B.—During the first half of the month the thermometers were in a single-poled tent; during the last half in an open veranda of a house.

MEMOIR

ON

THE PROVINCE OF LUS;

AND NARRATIVE OF A JOURNEY TO BEYLA.

BY THE LATE

COMMANDER T. G. CARLESS,

INDIAN NAVY.

Submitted to Government in August 1838.

PROVINCE OF LUS.

THE small province of Lus is about 100 miles long by 80 miles broad, and is bounded to the south by the sea, to the north by the Jahlawan Hills, and to the east and west by ranges of high mountains, which descend from the great mass occupying Beloochistan, and separate it from Sind and Mukran. Besides these, which terminate on the sea-coast, one at Ras Mooaree, and the other 100 miles further to the westward, near Ras Arabah, another spur shoots off from the Jahlawan Hills called Jibbel Hahro, which runs down the centre of the province nearly to the coast, and divides it into two unequal portions. These three ranges are all of the same formation, principally coarse sandstone, and of the same average altitude, each being about 3,000 feet high.

The climate of Lus is subjected to considerable variation: in the winter season it is delightful, the atmosphere being clear, dry, and cool; but in the summer months it is as disagreeable, from the excessive heat. During my journey to Beyla, in the month of January, the thermometer stood at 35° for three mornings running, and it did not rise higher than 67° even in the hottest part of the day. Situated just without the limits of the south-west monsoon, and nearly encircled by high mountains, which not only reflect the sun's rays, but exclude the wind, the heat in the summer season is intense; and although the atmosphere is occasionally cooled by refreshing showers, it is severely felt by the inhabitants.

The western division of the province, lying between the Hahro and Hinglaj mountains, is the smallest and least productive of the two: the greater part is occupied by a mass of barren hills, with small valleys between them, and the remainder forms a level sandy district, near the sea, which in most places is barren, and almost destitute of inhabitants.

The eastern division of the province is watered by the Poorally and its numerous tributaries, and the only productive part of it is the valley or plain through which that river takes its course. From the sea to the Jahlawan Hills it measures about 65 miles in length, and in width decreases gradually from 35 miles, its breadth on the coast, as you

approach its upper extremity, where it terminates in a semicircle of hills, and is eight or nine miles across. With the exception of a belt of low broken hillocks on the sea coast, about eight miles broad, the whole face of the valley is perfectly flat; and it is to this circumstance the province owes its name of Lus, which, in the language of the country, signifies a level plain. On looking down it from the upper extremity, where the ground rises slightly at the foot of the hills, the horizon appears of a misty blue colour, and is as level and well defined as it is at sea: the only elevated spot I saw was the rising ground on which Beyla is built, and that is not more than ten or twelve feet high. There is a tradition amongst the Natives, that at a remote period the valley was an inlet of the sea, and from its extreme flatness, alluvial formation, and small elevation above the level of the ocean, there is reason for believing it was once the case.

The soil is everywhere alluvial, and is composed of a light loose clay, mixed in a greater or less proportion with fine sand. In some places it preserves a hard smooth surface, and contains a portion of saline ingredients; but in others crumbles into a fine dust, which is blown about in clouds by the lightest breeze, and renders travelling very disagreeable: it is also in many parts encumbered with large rounded stones, and at the head of the valley above Beyla, where there are numerous streams and watercourses, they are so thickly strewed over the surface that the whole plain from one range of hills to the other appears like the bed of a large river. Near the coast there is scarcely a tree or a bush to be seen, and the country has a most barren and desolate aspect. A confused mass of undulating hillocks, eighty or a hundred feet high, covered to some depth with loose sand, and thinly overrun with creeping plants, extends about eight miles inland, and in the small hollows and plains between them, which are so low as to become saturated at high tide by the sea, the land produces nothing but saline shrubs or coarse reeds. Beyond the sandhills, the level plains commence, and small patches of stunted tamarisk trees appear here and there; but as you approach Layaree, they attain a greater height, and the jungle becomes dense. From that village to Beyla the face of the country everywhere presents the same appearance in its general features, and in the vicinity of the different streams a large portion of the land is under cultivation; but beyond these spots it is either covered with saline bushes, or thick tamarisk jungle, and, from the poverty of the soil, would not yield sufficient to repay the cultivator for his toil in clearing it. In some of the jungles the babool (Mimosa) is abundant, and in others the trees are withered and leafless for miles, and there is no sign of vegetation save in the undergrowth beneath them. About and above Beyla the tamarisk and babool almost entirely disappear, and are

succeeded by a tree which from a short distance appears like a species of willow, and is so high and bushy, that at those places where it abounds it forms thick and extensive woods. Game is everywhere plentiful, but particularly so on the eastern side of the valley: herds of antelopes and spotted deer are frequently seen in the open country, and the wild hog is sometimes found in the thickets; the jungles are full of hares and partridges; and the lakes and swamps swarm with waterfowl of every description.

On the banks of the Poorally and its tributary streams, a large portion of the land is under cultivation, and this is also the case along the eastern side of the valley, where there are several small lakes left by the waters of the inundation. At these spots the soil is a rich mould, and yields abundant crops of wheat, jowaree, oil seed, cotton, and esculent vegetables. In the dry season, most of the fields are irrigated by cuts from the rivers, but some depend entirely upon the rains for a supply of water: on the former a tax is levied of one-third, and on the latter of one-fifth of the produce.

The principal river of Lus is the Poorally, which rises to the northward amongst the Jahlawan Mountains, and issues upon the valley through a deep ravine about nine miles to the north-west of Beyla. On leaving the hills, it flows in several rivulets along a bed 300 yards wide, but near Beyla it increases to nearly a mile in breadth, and the water, spreading over a large extent of ground, forms a succession of swamps. Amongst these there are many small springs, and part of the land is turned to account in the cultivation of rice. Above Beyla the plain up to the foot of the hills is everywhere deeply scored with the beds of rivulets and watercourses, but they are only filled during the inundation months, and then empty themselves into the Poorally. The first tributary stream of any size flows from the mountains to the north-east, and, passing close along the elevated ground on which the capital is built, joins the river below the swamps. Opposite the town it is 700 yards broad, and when I crossed it, in the month of January, its bed was perfectly dry. From the junction of this stream the river pursues a winding course to the southward, and has an average breadth of 400 yards; at some places, however, it is much wider, especially at the confluence of the Kahto, a large stream descending from the eastern range of mountains, where it is nearly a mile across, and, when full, must form a fine sheet of water. Here its bed is overrun with jungle, and the stream winds through the centre in two small rivulets, fifteen yards broad, and fifteen inches deep. The Kahto is from three to five hundred yards broad, and is only filled in the rains. Four miles to the north-east of Layaree the Poorally receives the waters of the Hubb, a river of some size flowing from the eastward, and below the point of

junction is confined by a dam or bund, to retain its waters in the dry season for agricultural purposes. From this spot to its mouth *it has no bed.* As the river fills during the rains, the bund is swept away, and the water escapes through a level plain, covered with bushes, about five miles broad, which it inundates to a depth of two or three feet. This plain is bounded by the sandhills on the coast, and extends in a winding direction to the mouth of the river, which is situated at the head of the harbour of Sonmeeanee, and only runs four or five miles into the land. The water also finds another outlet through a line of lakes and swamps on the eastern side of the valley, where the ground is very low, and reaches the sea at a large lagoon on the shores of the bay, a few miles below the harbour. Seerundo, the largest of the swamps, is several miles in length, and very irregular in shape, its width in some places exceeding a mile, and at others contracting to four or five hundred yards. In the dry season, when it has a depth of four or five feet, the water is salt, and charged with vegetable matter, from the thick mangrove jungle growing along its banks; but during the inundation it is perfectly fresh, and the swamp then assumes the appearance of an extensive lake. Waterfowl of all kinds resort to it in incredible numbers, and alligators are almost equally abundant.

The water of the Poorally holds in solution a large quantity of saline ingredients, and every stone in its bed that is at all exposed to the influence of the sun is covered with a thin incrustation. As far as I could judge from the taste, it is natron, and the flavour of the water is scarcely affected by it. In the swampy parts of the river near Beyla alligators are numerous, and they are met with here and there throughout its course.

In the whole province there are not more than ten or twelve towns or villages, and the largest of these, Beyla, does not contain more than 5,000 inhabitants. Sonmeeanee has not half that number, and Ootul, a town situated on the eastern side of the valley, which ranks next in importance, scarcely a fourth. Layaree, Oot, Momadavee, and the others, are small villages of thirty or forty houses each, part built of mud, and the rest of mats, and none have more than 150 or 200 inhabitants. The people generally are scattered over the face of the country, and have no fixed habitations; their huts are erected wherever there is pasturage for their cattle, and, being constructed of stakes and reed mats, are easily removed to other spots when the supply of fodder is exhausted. Beyla, the capital, is built upon a rising ground on the north bank of a small river flowing from the mountains to the north-east, which joins the Poorally about a mile to the westward of the city. It contains about 800 houses, built of mud, and a population of about 5,000 souls. The palace of the Jam is situated in the north-east quarter,

and this part of it is surrounded by a mud wall of no great strength, which is the only defence of the place.

The productions of Lus are grain (chiefly wheat and jowaree), oil seed, a kind of gum called Gogur, and cotton. Ghee is made in large quantities, and sent to Kurachee or Sonmeeanee for exportation, and the flocks furnish a small supply of wool. Cotton cloth, with the coarse woollen dresses worn by the peasantry, and coarse carpets made at Beyla, are the only articles manufactured in the country.

It is difficult to form an estimate of the amount of the population, from the people being so much scattered over the face of the country; but I do not think it exceeds 25,000 souls. It is composed principally of Noomrees, descendants from the ancient Summa and Soomra Rajpoots, whose chiefs formerly ruled in Sind, and who are divided into seven tribes, the Jamootree, Arab Gudoor, Shooroo, Boorah, Shukh, Warah, and Mungayah. The Arab Gudoor is said to be a branch from the celebrated Arab tribe the Koreish, and to have settled in Lus in the reign of the third Khaliph Omar. That the family of Arab Oosmananee, the chief, is from an Arab stock, is evident, for in him and all his relatives the Arab form and features are strongly marked; but the resemblance is not visible in the tribe generally, and it is no doubt of Noomree origin. The Jokeeas and Jukreeas, who are also Noomrees, and inhabit the mountainous country to the eastward, were also formerly subject to the Chief of Lus; but when Kurachee was taken by the Sindians, they threw off their allegiance, and have ever since acknowledged the authority of the Ameers. Besides Noomrees, there are also many Hindoos, and a large number of African slaves. The latter perform all the work, and are treated by their masters with great harshness. The chiefs and a few of their military followers are robust and good-looking men, but the Noomrees generally possess few of those qualities, either physical or moral, which would entitle them to be considered a fine race. Amongst the lower orders, a mixture of the different castes and tribes is observable, and a large number exhibit marks in their features of their African descent. In appearance and bodily strength, the men are inferior to the inhabitants of most Asiatic countries, and they are ignorant, indolent, and superstitious. The women possess few personal charms even when young, and are remarkable for their bold and licentious manners. The dress of both sexes is much the same as it is in Sind, and there is, in fact, a marked resemblance, both in character and appearance, between the people of the two countries.

Jam Meer Mahomed, the Chief of Lus, is about fourteen years of age, and does not at present take any part in the government of the province, which is conducted by Ularukee, the Chief of the Jamootrees, under the direction of his mother. Jam Deena, his cousin, is the only

male relative he has ; but he is looked upon with suspicion by those in authority, and not allowed to interfere in any way in the management of affairs. He is about forty years of age, and much liked by the people for the kindness and generosity of his disposition. The Jam's sister was married some years ago to Meer Sobdar, one of the Sind Ameers, and it is settled that when he is of age he is to espouse one of that prince's sisters in return. He has also a half-sister in the Harem of Mehrab Khan, the Khelat Prince, and another married to the Chief of the Jokeeas. The mother of these two girls resides at Sonmeeanee, and is in such a destitute condition that she has lately been obliged to sell her clothes and jewels to obtain the necessaries of life.

The Jam is not independent, but, like all the Brahoee Chiefs, holds his dominions under the feudatory tenure of furnishing a certain number of troops when required for the service of his lord paramount, the Sovereign of Khelat. The Jam's father was formerly obliged to send him a portion of the duties collected in his territories as a yearly tribute, but after his marriage with one of the prince's daughters, this was no longer demanded. At present the Jam is kept in complete subjection, for his small State is everywhere exposed to the attacks of the Brahoee tribes, who, if commanded by the Khelat Chief, would quickly overrun it ; and he would not, in consequence, dare to disobey any order from that prince, or act in any business of importance without his sanction. The number of troops he was expected to bring into the field in time of war was fixed at 4,500, but at present the whole military force of the province does not exceed 2,700 men, which are furnished by the different tribes in the following proportions:—

Jamootree	600
Arab Gudoor	600
Shooroo	200
Boorah	300
Shukh	100
Warah	100
Mungayah	300
Brahoees	500
Total	2,700

Since the death of the Jam's father, who expired about eight years ago, the revenues of the province have decreased considerably, and do not now amount to more than Rs. 35,000 annually. They are derived from a duty of three per cent. levied on all imports and exports, and a bazar toll of one per cent. collected at the towns they have to pass through on the road to Beyla. There is also a land tax of one-third the produce on all grounds irrigated from the river, and one-fifth on those

which depend solely upon the rain for a supply of water. Last year the revenue collected at the different towns was as follows:—

At Sonmeeanee	Rs. 12,000
At Layaree	2,000
At Ootul	3,000
At Beyla	9,000
At Oormarah, a small seaport near Cape Arabah	1,000
Land tax	8,000
Total	Rs. 35,000

Sonmeeanee is the principal seaport of Lus, and, for such a miserable-looking place, possesses considerable trade. The town, generally called Meeanee by the Natives, is mean and dirty, and does not contain more than 500 houses. They are built of sticks and mud, and have a small turret rising above the roof, open to the sea-breeze, without which they would scarcely be habitable in the summer months, on account of the excessive heat. Formerly, the town was surrounded by a mud wall, but as no pains were taken to keep it in repair, it gradually fell to decay, and now scarcely a vestige of it remains. It contains a population of about 2,000 souls, most of whom are employed in fishing, and are extremely poor, and there are besides a few Hindoos, who have the whole trade of the place in their hands. At Meeanee the water is extremely bad: I examined all the wells in the neighbourhood, and caused others to be dug in the most promising spots, but it was so brackish that it was not drinkable, and I was obliged to send to Kurachee for a supply for the vessels. The harbour, which has been formed by the Poorally river, is a large irregular inlet, spreading out, like that at Kurachee, in extensive swamps, and choked with shoals. The channel leading into it is extremely narrow, and has a depth of sixteen or seventeen feet at high-water, in the shallowest part; but it shifts its position every year, and vessels of any size could not navigate it without great difficulty until it had been buoyed off. Inside there are six, seven, and even ten fathoms in some places, but towards the town the channels become shallow, and the trading boats cannot approach it nearer than a mile. At the spot where they anchor they are always aground at low-water. During the south-west monsoon the harbour cannot be entered, for the bar at the entrance is exposed to the whole force of the swell, and the breakers on it are very heavy. There is another small seaport belonging to Lus, situated on the western side of the Hinglaj Mountains, at Ras Arabah: it is called Oormarah, and is the place to which the productions of the western division of the province are sent for exportation.

The total value of the trade of Lus does not exceed Rs. 5,00,000. The imports are, from Bombay, cloths, silks, iron, tin, steel, copper,

pepper, sugar, and spices ; from the Persian Gulf, dates and slaves ; and from Sind a small quantity of coarse cotton cloth. The greater part of the articles brought from Bombay are sent to Khelat, for although highly prized in Lus, the people are too poor to purchase them ; and they receive in return wool, of which 800 candies arrived in the course of last year, and different kinds of dried fruits. The exports are grain (principally wheat and jowaree), ghee, wool, oil seed, and a small quantity of gum. A duty of three per cent. is levied on all imports and exports, which may be paid either at Sonmeeanee or Beyla, and a bazar toll of one per cent. at Layaree and Ootul, two towns on the road.

Most of the articles imported from Bombay are sent to Khelat, and from that city distributed throughout Beloochistan. The quantity is very small for the supply of such an extensive kingdom, and is not likely to become greater until the Khelat prince takes measures to prevent the caravans from being plundered in their route from Beyla to his capital. The intermediate districts are inhabited by various Brahoee tribes, such as the Mingulls, Bezinyas, &c., and to each of the chiefs the merchant has to pay from Rs. 1 to Rs. 4 per camel-load, as may be determined at the time. Their followers also frequently pillage the caravans ; and in such a lawless country it is of course impossible to obtain either restitution or redress. Mehrab Khan, the Khelat Prince, has no doubt the power to repress these outrages, and put a stop to the exactions of the Brahoee Chiefs, all of whom are tributary to him ; and although some of them are nearly related to him, he would no doubt interfere to prevent them, if the advantages that would accrue to himself from the increase of the trade were pointed out in a forcible manner. All the merchants of Lus are of opinion that the commerce would be considerably enlarged if security were afforded to the trader ; and of this there can be little doubt, for cloths and other articles of European manufacture are in great request throughout Beloochistan, and the supply is not at present adequate to the demand.

Formerly the commerce of Lus was much more valuable than it is at present, and a large portion was sent by the Khelat route to the northern provinces of Hindoostan. Within the last forty years it has, from various causes, gradually declined. In 1808 Sonmeeanee was taken and plundered by the Joasmee pirates, and for some years the merchants were afraid to send goods there : the port was just beginning to recover from this blow, when the Ameers of Sind issued strict orders to the merchants of Kurachee to discontinue their practice of importing goods to any of the ports of Lus, under the severest penalties ; and this measure, which at once took away half the trade of the place, completed what the pirates had begun. In the mean time the trade with the northern provinces had ceased entirely, for they had become so unsettled that the

Puthan merchants, who are the great carriers in that part of the world, ceased to come to Khelat for goods, and as they afterwards found the route from Upper Sind much the safest, they resorted to it in preference, and have since obtained the small supply of goods they require from the merchants of that kingdom. Before the trade of Lus had suffered from the causes above mentioned, its value is said to have been five times greater than it is at present; and it was also much more lucrative to the merchant, for at that period goods of European manufacture sold for double the price that is now obtained for them.

On the 10*th January* 1838, having received an answer to a letter I had written to the Chief of Lus, announcing my arrival at Sonmeeanee, with a letter and some presents from the Bombay Government, I commenced my journey to Beyla. Two chiefs, with a small party of followers, had been sent to accompany me to the capital; but as they were not ready to proceed, and I did not wish to delay my journey, I started, accompanied by Dr. Hardy, without them.

The road for some distance led over a confused mass of low hillocks, covered with loose sand, or across the low swampy hollows between them, and the country had everywhere a most barren and desolate appearance, there not being a tree or bush to be seen. About five miles from Sonmeeanee we arrived at a ridge of sandhills about 150 feet high, from the summit of which the Poorally river was visible to the WNW., with an extensive tract of thick mangrove jungle stretching along the left bank. At this place we halted for a short time, until the chiefs who were to accompany us made their appearance, and then continued our journey across a low flat plain, covered with saline bushes. About an hour after sunset, having reached a spot where the land was higher, and water procurable, we halted for the night. In the course of the evening, many travellers had collected at this spot, and by the time we arrived forty or fifty had encamped about the wells, which are merely small holes, dug at the foot of a high bank, yielding a scanty supply of brackish water. There was a Syud amongst them, a noted story-teller, who continued to entertain a large audience with his tales until the night was far advanced; and as he possessed a deep and melodious voice, the effect of the kind of recitative style in which they were chaunted was extremely pleasing.

11*th*.—On the following morning started for Layaree, a small town six miles distant, which we reached early in the afternoon. The level plain between the sandhills and Layaree is scored throughout with marks made by the passage of water, and overrun with saline bushes, intermixed here and there with patches of stunted tamarisk trees. Our attendants told us that the Poorally flows through this plain during the inundation, and pointed out the beds of two deep watercourses through

which the water escapes in the latter part of the season : the river, they said, had no decided bed from Layaree, where there is a bund thrown across it, to its mouth, a distance of about twelve miles, but discharges itself into the bay and harbour of Sonmeeanee by several outlets, through the low grounds near the sea coast.

Layaree is a small town, containing about fifty mud-built houses, prettily situated in a grove of large babool trees ; there is a large tank near it, filled by a canal from the river, and half a mile to the south-east is seen the small village of Charro, which is the residence of the Darogah, or collector of taxes. At least a third of the population is composed of African slaves, who perform all the out-door labour, and are, apparently, treated by their masters with great cruelty. In my walks about the place I met several who complained bitterly of the treatment they received, and earnestly begged me to receive them on board the vessel, for they had determined to escape from their brutal masters on the first opportunity. In the immediate vicinity of the town the country is open, and the ground laid out in fields, in which wheat, jowaree, cotton, and oil seed are cultivated. Further off, the land is overrun with high thick jungle, but, in the small open spaces that occur here and there, is covered with grass, which, although of a worse kind, affords excellent pasturage for the flocks and herds.

Shortly after our arrival at Layaree, and before the baggage camels had come up, word was brought that a chief had just arrived from Beyla with Teeruthdas, the Jam's Dewan, and wished to see me. As soon as a place had been prepared to receive them, by spreading mats and carpets under the shade of a large tree, they came, attended by a few armed followers, and delivered a complimentary message from the Jam, expressing his satisfaction at my visit. The chief was a little old man, with a strongly marked Arab countenance; and Teeruthdas, who is a spare meagre man, appeared to me the most complete specimen of a cunning, knavish Hindoo I had ever seen.

In the course of the conversation that ensued, I found they wanted me to remain at Layaree until they received further instructions from Beyla respecting my journey; but as this would have delayed me many days, I told them decidedly I should take it ill if any objections were made to my proceeding immediately, and that on the following morning I should either continue my journey or return to the ship. This seemed to puzzle them extremely, and they at last begged I would stop only one day, when they would be ready to accompany me ; to which I agreed. In the course of the evening one of their attendants brought a quantity of rice, flour, ghee, &c. for the use of the party.

13*th*.—On sending to the chief to tell him I was ready to proceed, he said he should be detained a short time at Layaree to settle a dispute that

had occurred there, and would join me at the next stage. At 10 A. M. started. For about three miles passed through cultivated grounds, in which nothing but the oil seed plant was apparent, and then, turning to the north-east, pursued a track leading along the bank of a deep dry nulla, running through thick tamarisk jungle. It extended several miles, and the trees were everywhere leafless and withered, with the exception of the small patches of undergrowth springing from their roots. As soon as we had got clear of the jungle, we came upon an extensive tract of cultivated ground, watered by canals from the river, and dotted here and there with huts. At this place (where we halted for half an hour), the soil, being good, yields abundant crops of oil seed and cotton, and game is plentiful.

On resuming our journey, we crossed a level plain, thinly overspread with withered saline bushes, and extending as far as the eye could reach, apparently to the foot of the mountains on either side. We traversed it for a distance of eight miles, and after passing through an open jungle of tamarisk and mimosa trees, about five miles beyond it, reached the Poorally river, and halted for the night. The distance from Layaree to this place is about eighteen miles. Here the Poorally is about 400 yards broad, and flows from east to west, which is a proof that we must have crossed its course before we arrived at Layaree, as our attendants asserted. The banks on both sides rise perpendicularly to a height of fourteen or fifteen feet, and a stream of water twenty yards broad and two feet deep pursues a winding course through the centre of its bed.

14*th*.—The morning of the 14*th* was extremely cold, the thermometer having fallen to 35° at daylight. During the night the camels had strayed some distance into the jungle, and the drivers, being unwilling to go after them in the cold, became sulky and untractable when ordered to do so. This brought on a quarrel between them and one of the chiefs who attended us, which did not terminate until he drew his sword, and threatened to slay them on the spot if they did not immediately bring them in. Frightened at his menaces, they departed in haste to look for their beasts ; but so much time elapsed before they could be found, that we were not ready to start until near noon.

Having proceeded four or five miles across a level plain, thickly covered with low salt bushes, we came again upon the river, which at this place is joined by the Kahto, a stream of some magnitude, flowing from the mountains to the eastward. At the point of junction the bed of the Poorally is nearly a mile wide, and when full must form a fine sheet of water: the greater part of it is overrun with jungle, and the water meanders through it in two streams, about fifteen yards wide, and as many inches deep. The soil is covered in many places with a thin saline incrustation, which from the taste appears to be natron. Two

alligators were lying asleep on the bank a short distance from the place where we crossed.

On the opposite side of the river we met a fine-looking young man, mounted on a camel, and attended by a few soldiers, who civilly stopped to salute us. He was a son of Arab Oosmananee, Chief of the Arab Gudoor tribe, and when he had been told that we did not understand the language, endeavoured to find out from the interpreter the object of my visit to Lus, remarking at the same time that he believed it was to establish a factory, and thus gain a footing in the country.

Late in the afternoon we reached Oot, two small villages about five miles from Beyla. During this day's journey the road gradually inclined towards the western range of mountains, and we had passed through a level country, alternately overrun with saline bushes or thick jungle. We were now not far from the head of the valley, which is encircled by high mountains, and numerous thin columns of sand were visible in every direction, caused by the eddying currents of wind sweeping out of their recesses. They moved over the plain with great rapidity, and whenever one came near us I could hear the chief, who guided my camel, mutter to himself,—"Pass away from the road good demon, and do me no harm: I am only going to Beyla, with the English gentlemen who have brought presents for the Jam!" Amused with this odd request, I asked him the meaning of it, when he told me, with great gravity, that we were now in the territory belonging to the ancient city Shuhr Roghun, once the favourite residence of the Fairy Buddul Jumaul, and that these columns were demons who had since taken possession of it, to whom it was necessary to speak sweetly, to prevent them from playing us any tricks.

Oot consists of two small villages, belonging to Arab Oosmananee, the Chief of the Arab Gudoor tribe, one containing about fifty, and the other twenty-five houses. The baggage not having come up, the carpets were spread under the shade of a large tree, and we were quickly surrounded by the whole population, to whom our dress and appearance seemed to afford considerable amusement. Arab Oosmananee, the Chief, was at the village, waiting to conduct us to Beyla, and, being informed of our arrival, came to pay us a visit, the whole of the villagers having been previously summoned to compose his retinue. In the course of conversation, I told him that amongst the presents there was one for him, which he begged might be delivered in the presence of the Jam. In the evening he sent us a sheep, with a quantity of flour, rice, ghee, &c., and requested we would let him know if we wanted anything else.

15*th*.—At noon next day the Kosid who had been despatched to Beyla the night before, to announce our approach, having returned, we

left Oot, accompanied by Arab Oosmananee, and a small party of military followers. For the whole distance the road passed through a succession of cultivated grounds, interspersed with small thickets, composed of a high bushy tree, which appears something like the willow. As we left Oot we met ten or twelve hideous-looking beings, dressed as women, and mounted on donkeys, who saluted us as they passed: from their peculiarly disgusting appearance, and bold manners, I was induced to inquire of my companion who they were. He laughed, and said they were *eunuchs*. Descending by a deep, irregular watercourse into the dry bed of a river flowing from the north-east, and about 700 yards broad, we crossed it, and entered Beyla. On approaching the town, the house-tops were seen literally covered, and the streets thronged with people. As we entered it, the crowd set up a wild shout, shrieking and hallooing with all their might, and created such a dust that I was almost suffocated. The ladies also favoured us with a shrill scream, but whether of welcome, admiration, or disgust, I could not exactly make out. The young Jam, we were told, was amongst the spectators. Arab Oosmananee turned off to the palace to report our arrival, and we were conducted to a house which had been prepared for our reception. It was a most wretched dwelling, but, with the exception of the palace, as good as any other in the town. The people crowded into the outer room without ceremony, and although the Jam had sent six soldiers to keep them out, they found it impossible to do so, and I was at last obliged to turn every one out myself, and fasten the door. Whenever it was opened a general rush was made, and some hard fighting took place between the guard and the mob before the latter could be driven back. Some of the principal inhabitants, confiding in their rank, rudely walked into the inner apartment, where we were sitting; but they were soon made sensible of the mistake they had made, by being immediately turned out of the house, and told that whoever wished to see us must first ask and obtain permission.

About two hours after our arrival, one of the chiefs brought a complimentary message from the Jam; but the real object of his visit, it appeared, was to ascertain precisely my rank, which having done, he departed. Shortly after, Arab Oosmananee came alone, and informed me that the Jam would give me a public audience next day.

Late in the afternoon a chief came, to conduct us to the house where the Jam was waiting to receive us; but no horses having been sent, I requested him to go back and get three, which in a few minutes made their appearance. Preceded by the presents, and attended by a party of soldiers, we proceeded through the town, and, after having passed with some difficulty through several narrow streets, filled with a crowd of people, shouting as if they were mad, alighted at the door of the

Kucheree, which, from the dense mass collected round it, was hardly approachable. On entering the court yard, we were received by one of the chiefs, who, taking me by the hand, led me towards a covered veranda or room, open in front, where the Jam was seated in state. Although the hall of audience was merely a rude mud building, without ornament or furniture of any kind, the *coup d'œil* was rather imposing, the group drawn up inside being arranged so as to produce the best possible effect. In the centre sat the young chief on a square platform, raised about a foot high, and covered with a carpet and cushions of silk, richly embroidered. His relations and chiefs were disposed on either side, according to their rank, Ularukee, his chief confidential adviser, being seated on his right hand, a little in advance, and his tutor, the Kazee Hafiz, on his left; and the background was filled up by a body of well-dressed, fine-looking military retainers. My conductor having led me up to the Musnud, the Jam desired me to sit down on a carpet laid in front of it, and the usual complimentary speeches and inquiries were made by the minister Ularukee, who conducted the whole business. I have already related what took place at this interview, and it is unnecessary to repeat it here. During the time it lasted, the young chief, who I imagine had been well tutored for the occasion, sat without uttering a word, with a vacant, incurious expression of countenance, which was, no doubt, assumed. He is a handsome lad, of thirteen or fourteen years of age, with fine expressive eyes, rather fair complexion, and a profusion of long jet-black ringlets, falling on each side of his face. At present his countenance is rather feminine, and when we saw him in his state robes, which, from their peculiar fashion, aided the resemblance, he appeared more like a young Indian queen than the chief of a wild tribe of Noomrees. He wore an undress of crimson and gold kincob, with loose trowsers of striped silk, and over this a mantle of pale blue satin, richly embroidered with gold and silver thread, coloured silk, &c., in the pattern peculiar to the Kashmere shawls. His turban, formed of splendid kincob, was extremely large, and adorned with a feather of open gold-work, set with emeralds, sapphires, rubies, &c., and another ornament richly set with jewels, similar to what I believe is called in Europe a sevigné, from which hung several strings of large pearls. A gold-hilted sword, with a shield ornamented with chased gold knobs, lay before him, and completed his equipment. After the presents had been exhibited, which appeared to excite the admiration of all present, I took leave, and, attended as before by a party of soldiers, amongst whom I distributed a few rupees, as is customary on these occasions, returned to the house.

When the presents destined for the principal chiefs were delivered to them, I remarked that they appeared embarrassed and dissatisfied; but

it was not until after I left that the cause was explained to me. The two chiefs who had accompanied me from Sonmeeanee exclaimed, as we entered the house,—"Why, what have you done? You have been giving presents to the Jam's servants, and none to his cousin Jam Deena, who attended the Durbar, and is extremely mortified at not having received a similar mark of regard from the British Government." I was much astonished and annoyed at this, for I was not aware the Jam had any male relative, and, in fact, had been told so, when I made inquiries on the subject. I immediately sent the interpreter with a message to Jam Deena, expressing my regret at the circumstance, and assuring him it arose entirely from our ignorance of his rank. In the afternoon of the following day, he paid me a visit, attended by Ularukee, and Arab Oosmananee, when I told him, that in consequence of no English gentleman having visited Lus for such a long period, we were not aware of his relationship to the Jam; and that I had no doubt, when the Government was made acquainted with the circumstance, a present would be sent up to him. He appeared satisfied with this, and said it was of no consequence, except with regard to the impression it might make on the people, who might think he had been purposely neglected.

During the week I remained at Beyla, I had several long conversations with Ularukee, the Jam's minister, but as I have already detailed the substance of them in an official letter, they need not be repeated here. Ularukee is the second chief of the Jamootrees, the particular tribe to which the Jam belongs, and has been chosen by the Jam's mother, in consequence, to conduct the government of the province, under her superintendence. He is a fine intelligent old man, without any of the prejudices against Europeans which generally exist in the minds of those Natives of India who have had no intercourse with them; but being surrounded by chiefs belonging to the other tribes, who are jealous of his influence with the reigning family, he is obliged to act with the greatest caution. The true reason of his refusing the request of Government respecting the survey of Sonmeeanee is because the Jam is dependent on the Khan of Khelat, and dares not act in any business connected with foreign countries without his sanction. He was very reluctant to tell me this, which he naturally thought would lessen the importance of his master in my eyes; but when the absurdity of every objection he made had been pointed out to him, he was at last obliged to acknowledge it, and declare that it was this circumstance alone which prevented him from complying with the wishes of Government. The ideas of the other chiefs respecting the importance of the little State they belong to are most ridiculous: they told me that Mr. Elphinstone, when Governor of Bombay, desirous of ascertaining by a personal examination whether Lus was as fine a country as had been reported,

visited it in the disguise of a Native; and many of them believed that he was so delighted with it, that I had at length been sent up to make arrangements for establishing a factory, and gaining a footing in the province. Colonel Pottinger's visit, when on his way to Khelat, no doubt gave rise to this absurd story about Mr. Elphinstone.

Beyla contains about 800 houses, constructed of sticks and mud, and between four and five thousand inhabitants. It covers a small piece of elevated ground, rising above the banks of a river of some size, flowing from the north-east, which joins the Poorally about a mile further to the westward, and, with the exception of the north-east quarter, which is surrounded by a ruinous mud wall, is entirely undefended. The palace of the Jam is within the walls, and is the only brick building in the place. About Beyla a large portion of the land is under cultivation, and the face of the country presents a pleasing succession of grassy plains and small woods, which, with the advantage of being placed nearly at the junction of two rivers, and at an equal distance from the mountains on either side, renders it the best spot in the province that could have been selected for the site of the capital. The Poorally passes about a mile to the westward of it, and, spreading over a large extent of surface, forms several swamps, which are fed by numerous springs. In some of them rice is cultivated, and the ground about their banks is everywhere much broken by deep gullies, worn by the water flowing into them in the rainy season.

Ularukee having communicated to me the decision of the Durbar respecting the survey of Sonmeeanee, and finding the Jam's answer to the Government letter would not be ready for two days, I determined to employ the interval in visiting Shuhr Roghun, an ancient excavated city, situated amongst the mountains to the northward. On stating my wish to Ularukee, he started many objections, but at last obtained the requisite permission from the Jam's mother, who, as a compliment, sent one of her confidential attendants, with her son's state matchlock, to accompany me.

Beyond the town, the road for some distance wound through a thick wood, occupying the bed of a deserted river. Here and there it opened out into small but picturesque glades, but in general the underwood was so dense that we had some difficulty in making our way through it. The bushes were full of birds, amongst which I noticed several parrots, and a very pretty little bird with green and golden plumage, and it was decidedly the most beautiful spot I had seen in the province. On ascending from the bed of the river, we came upon an open plain, thickly covered with large rounded stones, and cut up in every direction by deep watercourses; and about four miles from the town crossed the dry bed of a river about 500 yards wide. A short distance beyond it is

situated the small village of Mouradary, surrounded by fields; and to the eastward a grove of lofty trees was visible, where my attendants said the Jam had a large garden. From Mouradary to the head of the valley the stony plain is thinly dotted with bushes, and everywhere deeply furrowed by channels. This part of the valley rises slightly to the foot of the hills, and, from its appearance, must have water flowing over its surface in the rainy season towards the Poorally, from one range of mountains to the other.

About nine miles to the northward of Beyla, a range of low hills sweeps in a semicircle from one side of the valley to the other, and forms its head. The Poorally river issues from a deep ravine on the western side, and is about 200 yards broad. It is bounded on one side by steep cliffs forty or fifty feet high, on the summit of which there is an ancient burying ground, and the water runs bubbling along it in two or three small rivulets, amongst heaps of stones and patches of tamarisk jungle. Having crossed the stream, we pursued our way up its bed amongst the bushes, until we gained the narrow ravine through which it flows, and then, turning into one of the lateral branches, entered Shuhr Roghun. The scene was singular. On either side of a wild, broken ravine, the rocks rise perpendicularly to the height of four or five hundred feet, and are excavated as far as can be seen, in some places, where there is footing to ascend up to the summit. These excavations are most numerous along the lower part of the hills, and form distinct houses, most of which are uninjured by time. They consist in general of a room fifteen feet square, forming a kind of open veranda, with an interior chamber of the same dimensions, to which you gain admittance by a door. There are niches for lamps in many, and a place built up and covered in, apparently intended to hold grain. Most of them had once been plastered with clay, and in a few, when the form of the rock allowed of its being done, the interior apartment is lighted by small windows. The houses at the summit of the cliffs are now inaccessible, from the narrow, precipitous paths by which they were approached having been worn away; and those at the base appear to have been occupied by the poorer class of inhabitants, for many of them are merely irregular shaped holes, with a rudely constructed door. The rock in which these excavations have been made is what I believe is called by geologists conglomerate, being composed of a mass of rounded stones of almost every variety of rock, imbedded in hard clay. It contains a large quantity of salt (I think natron), which is seen in a thin film on the walls of all the chambers, and at two or three spots in the upper part of the ravine, where water drops from the overhanging crags.

It would be singular if such a place as Shuhr Roghun existed, amongst a people so superstitious as the Noomrees, without a legend

of some kind being attached to it, and they accordingly relate the following story:—In the reign of Solomon, the excavated city was governed by a king celebrated all over the east for his wisdom, and the great beauty of his only daughter, Buddul Jumaul. She was beloved by seven young men, who, from the great friendship existing among them, were called, by way of distinction, the seven friends; but they perished one after the other in defending the object of their adoration from the designs of half a dozen demons, who, attracted by her surpassing beauty, made repeated attempts to carry her off. At this interesting period of her history, Syf-ool-Mullik, son of the King of Egypt, arrived at Shuhr Roghun, who, being the handsomest man of his time, and as brave as he was handsome, had been despatched by his father on his travels, in the hope that by the way he might conquer a few kingdoms for himself. The princess, as a matter of course, fell in love with him. The demon lovers were in despair, and made a desperate effort to carry her off when at her devotions, but were all slain in the attempt by the prince. The father of the fair princess rewarded him for his gallantry with the hand of his daughter, and the happy couple lived to reign for many years in peace and security, over the excavated city. Such was the tale related to me by my attendants, which forms the groundwork of a story written in the Persian language, entitled the "Adventures of Syf-ool-Mullik with the Fairy Buddul Jumaul." I obtained a copy of the work at Kurachee.

A short distance above the entrance of the city, the broken precipitous ravine in which it is situated decreases in width to ten or twelve yards, and forms a deep natural channel in the rock. For about half a mile the cliffs are excavated on both sides to a considerable height, and taking the remains of houses into account, I think there cannot be less altogether than 1,500. In one place a row of seven, in very good preservation, was pointed out by the guides as the residence of the seven friends, and further on we came to the grandest of all, the palace of Buddul Jumaul. At this part, the hill, by the abrupt turning of the ravine, juts out in a narrow point, and, towards the extremity, forms a natural wall of rock, about 300 feet high, and twenty feet thick. Half-way, it had been cut through, and a chamber constructed, about twenty feet square, with the two opposite sides open. It is entered by a passage leading through a mass of rock, partly overhanging the ravine, and on the other side of the apartment two doors give admittance to two spacious rooms. The whole had once been plastered over, and, from its situation, must have formed a safe and commodious retreat. At the summit of the hill near it there is another building, which my attendants said was the mosque where the princess was rescued by Syf-ool-Mullik, when the demons attempted to carry her off. Having seen everything

worthy of notice in this troglodític city, we quitted it, and returned to Beyla.

21*st*.—On the 21st, the letter and presents for Government having been delivered to me by Ularukee, I left Beyla late in the afternoon, and on the evening of the 24*th* arrived at Sonmeeanee. On the road we met a party of Fakeers, proceeding to Hinglaj. They presented a most grotesque appearance, their faces being besmeared with paint, and their ragged garments decorated with tufts of feathers, and a variety of singular ornaments. Their Agma or chief, who was a portly, well-dressed personage, marched at their head, and carried a long white wand as the badge of his office. These poor wretches had collected from all parts of India, and, as we approached them, they set up a loud shout, exclaiming—"Hurrah for the holy Saint of Hinglaj! We are going to visit our good grandmother! Praises to Kalee, the holy goddess! Hurrah! Hurrah!"

Hinglaj, the shrine to which they were proceeding, is situated about a day's journey from the sea coast, at the extremity of the range of mountains dividing Lus from Mukran, and is said to be of great antiquity. The temple is merely a small building, erected on one of the mountain peaks, and is held in great veneration by both Hindoos and Musulmans. It is dedicated to Kalee, the Goddess of Fate, and there is a large circular tank or well near it, which the Natives say has been sounded to a very great depth without bottom having been obtained. They relate that one of the priests employed himself for a whole year in twisting a rope for the purpose, but it was not long enough. Those who can swim jump into the tank from an overhanging rock, and proceed through a subterranean passage to another part of the mountain, which is believed to purify them from their sins. There is also a species of divination practised, by throwing a cocoanut forcibly into the water, and according as the bubbles risé in a larger or less quantity, the individual will be happy or miserable. This account of the place, which is celebrated all over India, was furnished by people who had been there several times.

BRIEF NOTES OF A VISIT

TO THE

PORT OF SONMEEANEE,

AND THE COUNTRY LYING BETWEEN KURACHEE AND HINGLAJ, IN THE LUS TERRITORY,

IN THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1840.

BY THE LATE

CAPTAIN S. V. W. HART,

2ND (OR GRENADIER) REGIMENT BOMBAY NATIVE INFANTRY.

Submitted to Government on the 23rd March 1840.

SONMEEANEE AND HINGLAJ, IN THE LUS TERRITORY.

On the 24th January 1840 I left Kurachee, in company with a party of Hindoo pilgrims, and, crossing the Hubb river, reached Sonmeeanee in three marches. The route, as far as the Hubb, lies over the high ground between the range of hills in which the hot springs at Peer Mungah are situated and the sea. Owing to a heavy fall of rain a few days previous to my departure, a large body of water was running in the river ; but on my return I found only a small stream, which I was told would continue to flow for a short time, and then water always be found in pools. The bottom is covered with loose pebbles, and its width about a hundred yards. I saw no signs of cultivation or inhabitants near it, but a few miles higher up some Noomreea families, with their flocks, were located.

A belt of tamarisk jungle extends for a few hundred yards on each side of the river. Four miles beyond it the road enters a pass in the Pubb Mountains, called Guncloba by Mahomedans, and the Ungeekhera Bheram Luk by Hindoos. It is stony, of trifling ascent, and the descent equally gentle, to a tract full of ravines, extending from the Mor range of mountains, which branch off from the Pubb towards Beyla, and the sandhills on the sea shore. A few years ago this Luk was occupied by a party of Noomreeas, who plundered the pilgrims, and eventually stopped all communication, until the Jam of Beyla sent troops and dispersed them. Some Mahomedan tombs, not far from it, were pointed out as having been raised to those who had fallen in battle. To the left of the road, and a hundred yards distant from it, is the Bhowanee well, only three feet in diameter, and nearly forty deep. It is said never to be dry ; yet travellers alone use it. The face of the country is here sprinkled with patches of milkbush, and low shrubs, which continue to the Bareed Luk, where the road leaves the high ground for the beach. A few miles before reaching it, the bed of the Bahur river is crossed. It appears merely one of the larger ravines, and the route runs a short distance down its bed, to avoid an abrupt

ascent on its right bank. The Bareed Luk presents a most singular appearance, and is formed by one hill having been detached by some convulsion of nature from the range, which are here about 200 feet in perpendicular height. The path leads along the edge of a deep ravine, where the rush of the stream has cut a channel as even as if excavated by art, and then, winding round the back of the hill, slopes to the shore. The descent is gentle, and laden camels pass without difficulty.

The sea at this spot is not far distant, but further on the shore gradually widens, until it leaves an extensive flat between it and the sandhills, in some parts nearly a mile in breadth, covered with a low jungle of tamarisk and wild caper bushes. On my return, grass had sprung up over the greater part of this tract, and afforded excellent pasture to a few ponies belonging to the pilgrims with us, but I saw very few cattle or goats feeding there. Three miles from the pass is a nulla, in which brackish water is procured by digging, where travellers usually halt; and one mile beyond it a decayed tree marks the Kharee well, where sufficient is found to supply small parties. This was the second day's journey. On the third we continued our course along the flat, which is never at present overflowed by the sea, and passed the Seeta Koowas (a number of kucha wells so called), which have been sunk at different times,—many now filled up by the earth falling in, and but little water in the rest. The sandhills here lose their precipitous appearance, and gradually decrease in size, until they sink to the level of the plain.

The ruins of a small building, named Peer Putta by Mahomedans, and Gopeechund Raja by Hindoos, lie to the left of the road before it reaches the Vindoor river, which is dry, except after heavy rain, when it runs for a few hours only. The bottom is sandy, and its width trifling. A barren plain brought us to a range of sandbanks, ascending which we found ourselves in sight of the town of Sonmeeanee, situated at the head of a bay, in an amphitheatre of sandhills, and remarkable only from the absence of all verdure around it. The party halted at a ruined Dhurumsala, a short distance from the wells, which supply the inhabitants with not very sweet water. They are but two in number, only a few feet in diameter, and are lined with logs of wood, to prevent the sand choking them.

I had previously informed the Dewan of the Jam of Beyla of my intention of passing through his country. He came out to meet me, stated that he was directed to obey all my orders, and would, if I wished, accompany me on my journey. His attention was most marked, and it was with difficulty that I declined his request to be allowed to supply food to my party at the Jam's expense, although I particularly explained to him that I was merely a traveller, and not authorised to

receive presents from his master, but only desired the protection always afforded to strangers. He said that the Jam wished, by his attention to me, to show the consideration that every British officer would meet with while in his territory. A Noomreea sepoy was ordered to attend me as long as I remained in the country. In the afternoon the people crowded out of the town to look at me, but I experienced no rudeness nor incivility whatever from any one.

The port of Sonmeeanee has been long known to Europeans, owing to its being on the direct route to Khorasan and Afghanistan. The town is built at the head of a large but shallow bay, in shape not unlike a horse-shoe, into which vessels of heavy burden cannot enter, except at spring tides. The entrance is narrow, and the low sandbanks which border the harbour afford little or no protection from the wind. All boats but coasting craft anchor outside the bar, a distance of nearly two miles from the town, in the open roadstead, where they are much exposed. Their cargoes are discharged into the smaller dinghees, and then landed. On inquiring how the horses exported from Khorasan were embarked, I was told that the vessels were brought in at spring tides, and the animals swam off to them. As we halted here a day to lay in a stock of provisions, I had an opportunity of making a few inquiries regarding the state of the district under the Jam's rule, from the Hindoo agents of Kurachee, and other merchants residing there, the result of which I now beg to communicate.

The ancestors of the Jam of Beyla are said to be descended from one of the numerous Hindoo Rajas who were converted to the faith on the advent of the followers of the Prophet, and it is asserted that many Hindoo festivals are still privately kept in his family, particularly by the female part of it. At a later period, they connected themselves in marriage with the Kings of Beloochistan, better known of late as the Khans of Khelat, to whom they paid no tribute (although liable to be called on for military service), but on occasions of festivity, or visits, presented Nuzurs as an acknowledgment of their paramount authority. The district over which they rule extends from the port of Sonmeeanee northward to Khozdoon, and from the Pubb Mountains beyond the the greater range of the Haras. This tract of country is inhabited by the Noomreea tribe, who pay allegiance to the Jam.

The only towns comprised within it are Beyla, Oothul, Sonmeeanee, and Layaree, the former being the usual residence of the chief. Sonmeeanee is the only port, and the customs on its imports and exports form the principal item of revenue. It is described as having been in former days but a mere village, inhabited by fishermen, called, as such places all are on this coast, Meeanee. Its bay affording more protection to their boats than they could find on the open coast, its

population naturally increased, and as trade began to flow through it, the epithet Son was prefixed *par excellence.* A small mud fort was built on the sea side to check the rapacity of the Gulf pirates, and many Noomreeas from the jungle located themselves there. At present, it contains upwards of 200 houses, built, as usual, of wattle and mud; and the number of inhabitants is said to amount to 1,000 families. Of these, the greater proportion are Noomreeas, who earn their subsistence by transporting merchandize to the northward, and fishermen.

The Hindoo portion of the population does not exceed 300, a few being agents of traders at other ports, and the rest artizans and shopkeepers. The Jam exercises the supreme authority ; but as the present incumbent is a child, his power is in the hands of two Dewans, a Mahomedan and a Hindoo.* The former regulates the police, and the latter the revenue, the total amount of which is about Rs. 45,000 per annum. Of this sum from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000 are derived from the cultivation round Beyla, Oothul, and Layaree, where jowaree, oil seed (Shungruf), &c. is raised, and the gum of the Googhul tree found. The customs collected at the port of Sonmeeanee, and the transit duties of Beyla and Oothul, are farmed by a Khwaja and a Hindoo, for Rs. 34,000 per annum. A few years ago the sum paid was Rs. 30,000, and before that only Rs. 26,000,—a pretty convincing proof of the increasing prosperity of the port. Rs. 2,000 of this amount are said to be derived from the tax on fish. The contractors pay part of the amount of their agreement in advance, and the balance at the end of the year. Resident traders are only called on to close their accounts at the annual settlement, but other merchants pay at once.

The custom duties are less than those exacted at Kurachee, and much consideration (as I was told by some Afghan merchants I met there with large investments) is shown to all traders by the authorities. On each bale of piece goods, Rs. 10 are levied ; on other articles duty is charged at the rate of Rs. 3-2-0 to merchants, and Rs. 3-8-0 to Ryuts. The principal imports are cloths and metals from Bombay, sent to the northward; dates from Mukran; and rice from Sind, for internal consumption. Slaves, also, are brought from Muscat, but seldom, unless on private order. On each a tax of Rs. 5 is taken. So far have the Hindoos resident here got over some of their prejudices, that the generality of them employ Siddees as household servants, to clean their cooking utensils. The exports consist of wool and Googhul from the Beyla district, and wheat, ghee, moong, assafœtida, and horses from Khorasan. The former article is brought in large quantities from the

* They are, however, controlled by his mother, who has the reputation of being a woman of sense and discretion.

hills near Shah Bilawul, and beyond Beyla. Its quality is finer than that shipped at Kurachee, and the cost here averages from Rs. 14 to Rs. 16 a maund.

The oil plant (Sheera or Shungruf) is raised in large quantities, and both its seed and oil are sent to Muscat, Gwaddel, Kurachee, and the mouths of the Indus. In Sonmeeanee alone I saw no less than twenty mills at work. The coins in circulation in the town are German crowns or rials, Kashanee rupees, and Sonmeeanee pice, those of Kurachee not being current in this neighbourhood. There are only six vessels of any size belonging to the port, five owned by a Hindoo, and one by a Mahomedan. The fishing and coasting boats are about twenty in number.

When walking round the town, I examined the remains of the fort. It appears to have been of very small extent. The remains of two bastions and a curtain, on the sea side, are now alone discernible, and they are almost level with the ground. The bank on which it stands has been partially washed away; but the Dewan explained to me, as the cause of its never having been repaired, that since the destruction of the pirates by the British, it was no longer of use.

The shops do not exceed fifteen in number, in which grain and dates are sold. The weavers (of whom there are not many) fabricate a few silks and coarse cotton cloths, which find a sale here. A common kind of carpet, called Furash, is also made, from goat and camel-hair. Indigo is imported in small quantities, and is used by the dyers (there are only three) in colouring the clothes of the male portion of the population. There are four mosques and six Dhurumsálas and temples in the town and neighbourhood.

During the lifetime of the present Jam's father, forcible conversions to Mahomedanism were very frequent, but since his decease, the Hindoos have not been molested.

I was informed by the Afghan merchants that at present the hire of a camel to Khelat was as high as Rs. 25, owing to the great demand for them by our troops. Goods to the amount of Rs. 600, the property of one of them, had a few days before been stolen from the Peer-ke-Jugah, outside the town, where they usually halt. On representing his case to the Dewan, he told me the thieves had been traced, and that no exertions should be wanting on his part to restore it, and what the plunderers could not pay in *kind*, they should in *person*. In the customs farmed by the contractors, the sum of Rs. 2-2-0 taken from each pilgrim, save mendicants, who visit the temple at Hinglaj, should be noticed. Of this, 6 annas belongs to the Jam; part of the balance is divided by the town authorities, and the remainder goes to the contractors. For it protection is supposed to be afforded them while on his territory; and as a proof

of it, one of the leaders of a party we met mentioned his having lost a Kutora or drinking vessel some years before at the Aghor river, and on his preferring a complaint, that it was searched for and found in the hut of a Noomreea, who was forced to return it, and had a valuable camel taken from him as a punishment. I met several of the pilgrims who had lost articles of trifling value, and one who was ahead of his party, a few marches beyond Sonmeeanee, was robbed of his clothes and grain; but they felt confident if they saw the Dewan, on their way back, he would oblige the contractors to pay their value.

Fresh camels having been hired, in the place of those brought from Kurachee, which do not thrive on the forage found here, and are less strong and healthy in appearance than those bred on the hills, we set out at midday on the 28th; and as the direct route was unsafe for the camels, from the ground having been so lately saturated with rain, we wound round the town, and reached the sea beach, along which we marched for some miles, until, nearing the creek at the northern extremity of the bay, into which the Poorally river empties itself, we turned north, and, keeping close to the edge of the sandhills, which border the mangrove swamp called Gooroo Chela-ka-Runn, reached a pool of fresh water, where we halted. This spot is named Churoo, and is merely a place of encampment. A few herds of camels were feeding in the cypress jungle, which covers the inlets from the swamp. Their attendants were the only people we saw on the road. A short distance before arriving at our ground, we passed the tomb of Shaikh Ali-ir-Swamee, built on one of the low sandy ridges which here extend inland as far as the eye can reach, covered with stunted milkbushes and tufts of coarse grass. To its right runs the road to Layaree.

The following morning we crossed the Thura, a flat which extends for many miles between Layaree and Shaikh-ka-Raj. Brushwood abounds on it, and both cattle and goats find pasture on the grass which grows there. The few I saw, however, did not appear in good condition. An open plain on our right, sprinkled with cypress bushes, was pointed out as reaching to near Layaree, but I could not distinguish any signs of cultivation.

Continuing a westerly course, we came to the Poorally river, an insignificant stream, with a muddy bottom. It rises in the hills north of Beyla, and is said always to have water in its bed; but the cultivators of Layaree raise embankments across it, for the purpose of irrigating their fields, so that, unless after heavy rain, it cannot be called a running stream below that town.

Beyond it, a gradual rise brought us to another range of sandhills, in the midst of which we encamped, near a small well of brackish water. This is generally the first stage from Sonmeeanee, but the Truppa being

too slippery for camels where it is usually crossed, we were obliged to make a circuit, which doubled the distance to Dambo. This, likewise, is only a halting-place, as are all the stations on the route to Hinglaj, without the sign of a habitation or a human being near them.

The few Noomreeas who are scattered over the face of the country keep their flocks at a distance from the road, for fear of their being forcibly taken from them; but whenever they see a Kafila, they come with their families to beg for food. It has become an acknowledged custom for all travellers to give it, and even the mendicants themselves spare a portion of their coarse bread for this purpose. Money (save a few Sonmeeanee pice, to pay for milk, when it can be had) is almost useless, for nothing is to be purchased in this barren waste.

A mile beyond Dambo, before leaving the sandhills, a small grove of cypress trees is passed, noticed as being of greater size than those met with elsewhere. On descending from the ridge, the road crosses the heads of a number of inlets running into an extensive backwater from the sea, which here is not visible, as the sandbanks along the shore are rather abrupt. Ascending a gentle rise, we came on a plain covered with a small bush called Lanee or Lanoo, on which the camels fed with great avidity. Of this plant there are two kinds, the male, called Lanoo, and the female, Lanee. They are much the same in appearance, excepting that the leaf of the latter is shorter and thicker than the former. Potash is produced by burning the male plant, which is taken to Kurachee and Sonmeeanee, and sells at from four to five Kasees (about 100 lbs.) per rupee. This tract is called Churoo, more particularly that portion of it where low cypress bushes flourish, and pools of rain-water with a few wells are found.

The open plain extends to the foot of the mountains, and inland to a great distance. Twelve miles from Dambo we found the wells at Kattewara, the encamping ground, choked; nor did we discover water until reaching the base of the lesser range of the Haras, when the pool of a cataract, about half a mile up a rugged ravine, was pointed out to us by a Beeroon we casually met on his way to Sonmeeanee, to dispose of some camels.

This range of mountains, although their height is comparatively trifling, presents a most singularly wild appearance, from their rising at once from the plain, at an angle of about forty-five degrees on their eastern side, with a still greater slope to the westward, and being totally bare of all verdure. They are composed of sandstone, and their summits are broken into rugged peaks of the most fantastic shapes. They appear to rise in regular layers, their height gradually increasing as they recede from the plain. Our route the next morning lay along their base, and after passing the beds of many dry nullas, we came to

a pass near their south-eastern extremity, where they sink into the plain, about four miles from the sea.

This Luk is termed Googroo Bheram, and is formed by a large ravine, the course of which we followed for a short distance, and then, turning to the left, reached the top of the heights, and came in sight of the great range of the Haras, running almost at right angles to the lesser.

Between the two ranges the Phor river flows through a plain similar to that we had passed. Its banks are fringed, as usual, with a belt of tamarisk jungle. Before reaching it, a number of Mahomedan tombs are remarked, and near them, under a clump of trees, some Noomreeas were engaged in raising a crop of jowaree,—the first attempt at cultivation I had seen since leaving Kurachee. Water is occasionally found in pools in the river, and higher up it can always be procured by digging. Six miles beyond it we came to the Silookpooree wells, at present covered with an extensive marsh of fresh water, formed by the late rain. One kos from them, in a westerly direction, three hills (the Chunder Koops) of extremely light-coloured earth rise abruptly from the plain. That in the centre is about 400 feet in height, of a conical form, with the apex flattened and discoloured; its southern and western faces rather precipitous, but with a more gradual slope on the others. It is connected with a smaller one of the same form, but of not more than half its size, by a sort of causeway, some fifty paces in length. The third bears the appearance of the cone having been depressed and broken, and covers a greater extent of ground than the others. All three, towards their bases, are indented by numerous fissures and cavities, which reach far into their interior. Their sides are streaked with channels, as if from water having flowed down them.

On ascending to the summit of the highest of these hills, I observed a basin of liquid mud, about one hundred paces in circumference, occupying its entire crest. Near the southern edge, at intervals of a quarter of a minute, a few small bubbles appeared on the surface. That part of the mass was then gently heaved up, and a jet of liquid mud, about a foot in diameter, rose to that height, accompanied by a slight bubbling noise. Another heave followed, and three jets rose; but the third time only two. They were not of magnitude sufficient to disturb the whole surface, the mud of which, at a distance from the irruption, was of a thicker consistency than where it took place. The pathway round the edge was slippery, and unsafe, from its being quite saturated with moisture, which gives the top a dark-coloured appearance.

On the southern side, a channel, a few feet in breadth, was quite wet, from the irruption having recently flowed down it. I was told that

every *Monday* the jets rose with greater rapidity than at other times, and then only did any of the mass ooze out of the basin.

The entire coating of the hill appears to be composed of this mud, baked by the sun to hardness. No stones are to be found on it, but near the base I picked up a few pieces of quartz. Crossing the ridge which connects this hill with the least of the three, I climbed up its rather steep side. In height or compass it is not half the magnitude of its neighbour, and its basin, which is full of the same liquid mud, cannot be more than five-and-twenty paces in diameter. The edge is so narrow and broken, that I did not attempt to walk round it. One jet only rose on its surface, but not more than an inch in height or breadth: but a very small portion of the mass was disturbed by its action; and although the plain below bore evident marks of having been once deluged at a short distance with its stream, no irruption had, apparently, taken place for some years. At times, the surface of this pool sinks almost to the level of the plain; at others, it rises so as to overflow its basin; but generally it remains in the quiescent state in which I saw it: two years previous, it was many feet below the edge of the crest.

On my way to the third hill, I passed over a flat of a few hundred yards, which divides it from the other two. The sides are much more furrowed with fissures than theirs are, although their depth is less; and its crest is more extended and irregular. The ascent is very gentle, and its height about 200 feet. On reaching the summit, a large circular cavity, some fifty yards in diameter, is seen, in which are two distinct pools, of unequal size, divided by a mound of earth, one containing liquid mud, and the other clear water. The surface of the former was slightly agitated by about a dozen small jets, which bubbled up at intervals; but in the latter one only was occasionally discernible. A space of a few yards extended on three sides from the outer crust to the edge of the cavity, which was about fifty feet above the level of the pools. Their sides are scarped, and uneven.

On descending the northern face, I remarked a small stream of clear water flowing from one of the fissures into the plain, which had evidently only been running a few hours. The mud and water of all the pools are salt. A fourth hill, situated close to the great range of the Haras, and distant from the rest upwards of six miles, was pointed out as having a similar cavity to this one. Its colour is the same; and although the surface is more rounded, its summit appears broken. I regretted not having an opportunity of visiting it. The name given to these singular productions of nature is the "Koops or Basins of Raja Ramchunder," by which appellation they are known to all tribes. They are said to be altogether eighteen in number,—seven in this neighbourhood, and eleven between Kedje and Gwaddel in Mukran. Four were

pointed out to me, and I was told the other three were hid among the mountains. Some persons with my party had seen one of those in Mukran, and had heard, from the Beroees who showed them the road to it, that many others were spread over the country. He described it as throwing up jets similar to the large hill here.

By the Hindoos they are looked upon as the habitation of a deity, but the Mahomedans state that they are affected by the tide (the sea is not more than a mile distant from the large one); but this I had reason to doubt, as of the many persons I questioned, who had visited them at all times, not one remembered to have seen the pools quiescent, although several had been on the large hill when the mud was trickling over the side of the basin. To endeavour to ascertain this fact, I placed several dry clods of earth in the bed of the channel on a *Saturday*, as I expected to return by the same route the following week. A range of low hills of irregular form lie to the westward of, and almost close to the Chunder Koops. I had not time to examine them, but, from their appearance, I judged they contained sulphur; and on questioning some of those with me who crossed them, they said the taste of the earth was like that near the hot springs at Sehwan, where it is known to abound. A Noomreea who was present mentioned that about six kos off there was another hill, called by the name of the Sulphur Mountain.

Leaving the Koops on our left, we continued our route towards the greater Haras, increasing our distance from the sea as we advanced. An isolated cluster of hills on the shore, called the Sath Durwaza, and a rock near them, were pointed out as spots much reverenced by the Hindoos. A range of sandhills soon hid them from our sight, and we crossed the beds of many nullas, the banks of which were thickly lined with tamarisk and babool trees.

This tract is called the Chota Soongul, and a well in one of its watercourses is generally the halting-place for pilgrims. We found it dry, and pushed on three miles further, to the Burra Soongul, where, in a nulla, at no great distance from the mountains, we came to another well, with sufficient water in it for us all.

A Beroee musician with his family here joined us, for the sake of the food he was certain of obtaining as long as he remained in our company. A camel and pony, the former led by his son, carrying his wife and two children, with their baggage, and the latter ridden by himself, with his Sitar, were all they possessed. He told me he had left his village in Mukran to visit Beyla, in the hope of collecting grain by his skill in music; but not meeting any one who appreciated his merits, he was now on his way home. He earned a precarious subsistence, by travelling to the camps of the different chiefs, and reciting the wars of the Jokeeas and Beloochees. They sometimes rewarded

him with gifts of food and clothes. The animals he now had, had been thus presented to him. He remained with us some days, and on his leaving, he begged the money I gave him might be exchanged for tobacco or grain. From the Soongul the road runs nearly parallel to the mountains, which here present the same features as the lesser Haras, decreasing, like them, in height, as they near the sea; but an acclivitous and bold range, towering far above them, was pointed out as that in which the far-famed temple of Hinglaj was situated.

We passed this day the first encampment of Beroees I had seen. About twenty families were pitched on the banks of a ravine, where wood and water were found in sufficient quantities to supply their wants. A cloth of camel or goat-hair, stretched over a pole, formed their dwelling; and for their food, the milk of their flocks, prepared in various ways, and a very small quantity of the coarsest grain, sufficed. The men wore drawers, with a loose cloth thrown over the shoulders; the dress of the women was merely a long garment, reaching from the neck to the ankles.

We now skirted the base of the mountains, and passing between them and a low broken range, running at right angles, came in sight of the pass leading to the Aghor river. An easy ascent of a few hundred yards, over sandy rock, led to the summit, and a gentle slope of half a mile brought us to the banks of the stream. The view as we turned up its course was magnificent. The river here flows through a break in the mountains, about two hundred yards in width. The faces of the rocks towards the stream are broken and craggy; that on the left bank is higher and more scarped than its opposite neighbour. Beyond them, in the distance, is seen a range of light-coloured sandhills, to all appearance nothing but a mass of conical-shaped peaks, and towering far above them are the blue mountains of Hinglaj, precipitous and wild.

We encamped above the tamarisk jungle, on the high ground between the river bed and the hills. The width of the stream at this spot is about sixty yards, its bed muddy, and sprinkled with low bushes. The water is not considered very wholesome, as a great quantity of sand is mixed up with it. It reaches the sea about six miles from the hills, and I saw, from an eminence, many fishing-boats from Kurachee, Sonmeeanee, and Oormura, anchored at its mouth. A short distance below the pass, on the left bank of the stream, are the remains of an ancient village, the name of which has been long since forgotten. The site of the houses can hardly be traced, but I found many pieces of glazed pottery and glass among their ruins. A number of Mahomedan tombs are scattered over the high ground in the vicinity, and in the bed of the river is a bluff rock, on which are the ruins of a small fort, called Rana-ka-Kote. It is said to have been built when the Hindoos held

the sovereignty of the country, to protect the pilgrims going to Hinglaj from the pirates, who used to row up the river in small boats to plunder them. It covers the whole face of the rock, and consists of two towers, joined by an embankment, with a well in the centre. The foundation now alone remains. After heavy rain, it is said that pieces of silver are occasionally found on the site of the village ; but I was not able to obtain any, and imagine, that although some may once have been seen there, yet, were it supposed that the most minute search would be rewarded by even a copper coin, the abject poverty of the people would induce them to dig up the whole surface in searching for it. The hills here are composed of sandstone, layers of shells, and conglomerate.

I made many inquiries regarding the numerous Mahomedan tombs which are scattered over the face of the country, near many of which not the slightest trace of a habitation remains, and the situations of some are so far from streams or wells, that the cause of their having been built in such barren spots cannot now be accounted for. I imagine that when the Mahomedans had established themselves in Sind, their detachments were stationed in all parts, to keep the inhabitants in check, and the spirit of conversion being then all-powerful, they buried their dead with much ceremony, and erected stone tombs over them, to impress the idolators with a high sense of the excellence of that faith which decreed such honours to the departed. On the decline of the Mogul empire, when the troops were required for the defence of the interior, these detachments were withdrawn, the mud huts of the camps soon fell to decay, the population, which had been drawn together from the jungle, and derived a subsistence by raising grain to supply them, again spread over the country, and resumed their pastoral habits, when the demand for the produce of their cultivation ceased.

The embankments raised for irrigation were swept away on the flooding of the streams, the log-lined wells soon fell in, and these monuments of stone alone remained to mark where the camps had existed. The very name of the station, most probably that of the first chief who pitched his standard on the spot, was soon forgotten by the wandering tribes who fed their flocks in the vicinity, when the memorials of his stay had crumbled into dust.

The Aghor river is the boundary between the territory of the Jam of Beyla and that of the Khan of Khelat, the Chief of the Beroees. They and the Noomreeas do not intermarry, and although at present at peace with each other, have no hesitation in robbing and plundering whenever opportunity offers. The Beroees are usually the aggressors, being better armed, and their place of residence in the mountain countries of Mukran and Beloochistan little known. The very day I reached the Aghor, a party of them, under a person named Dad Ruheem Khan,

on their way to Beyla, took from the huts of two Noomreeas every article they could lay hands on, and levied a contribution of grain from some Hindoo pilgrims encamped there. They likewise stopped some of the people with whom I was travelling, who were in advance of the baggage; but on learning that a British officer accompanied them, they instantly let them go. At the Beroee encampment, also, they demanded some sheep as a present, but a Noomreea I had left there to purchase milk threatened them with my anger if they dared to seize even one.

Such is the effect which had been produced on the minds of these lawless men by the gallant capture of Khelat, that they proceeded on their way without enforcing their demand. They were more numerous, and better appointed than the armed men with my party, and, had they chosen, might have robbed us without much difficulty; but the very name of a European appeared to frighten them. A few months ago I should have been treated with every contumely, but now all were anxious to pay me attention. I felt convinced that the only danger attending my excursion was what I might incur from the vengeance of individuals who had lost relations or friends at the storm; but even their irritated feelings will be allayed by time.

In a country so divided into petty tribes as Beloochistan, where the authority of the chief, although acknowledged, is but little heeded, and where no man's life or property is safe, further than he can himself protect it, for a traveller to straggle from his party is of course unsafe, as the wretched state of poverty and starvation in which the greater portion of the population exist, would induce them to make a dash at him for the sake of his clothes. I was warned of this at Sonmeeanee, and could never leave our camp without one of the attendants following me at a distance, to watch over my security. While halted at the river, upwards of sixty Beroee and Noomreea families collected round us, to be fed. They came from all parts, and I had, therefore, an opportunity of inquiring about their mode of life. The milk of their camels, goats, and ewes, the dried berry called Beera, wild herbs, and a very small quantity of the coarsest jowaree, are what they subsist on. Meat they seldom touch, as all the male animals are disposed of for clothes or grain, and the females kept for their produce. Dates are considered a luxury,—so much so that, when at Sonmeeanee, I was told of a Noomreea having asked a Banian, in whose shop he saw a pile of bags of them, whether he took any rest at night. On the Hindoo replying of course he did, the Noomreea expressed his surprise, and said, were he there he should be eating the dates day and night. Whenever I offered money, food was always requested in lieu of it.

The complexions of the females are more fair than could have been

expected, from their exposed mode of life; and the number of children with them was, as is usual among a poor population, very great. The Beroees all wear the low conical cap, which affords even less protection to the head than that of Sind. All were armed, mostly with a matchlock and long knife; some had swords. Neither they nor the Noomreeas pay any regular tribute, but on occasions of festivity, the chiefs raise contributions in kind from the heads of families. All are liable to be called on for military service, during which time they receive food, and trifling pay. In the Jam's territory, wherever cultivation is carried on, one-third of the produce goes to the chief, and the remainder is left to the peasant. The vicinity of roads is generally avoided, to escape molestation from travellers, and their camps are moved from place to place, as water or pasturage fail them. The nearest village to Hinglaj is Oormura, situated on the coast, at a distance of two days' march, and said to contain 200 inhabitants, many of whom are fishermen. A few Hindoo shopkeepers reside there. The coins current are the German crown, the Mahmoodee rupee, and the Paolee. It is described as having a good bay; but my time did not admit of my visiting it.

On ascending the left bank of the Aghor river, after passing between the break in the mountains, which seem as if they had been severed by some convulsion of nature, a full view is obtained of the sandhills. They appear to consist of one irregular range, cut in two by the river, extending southward to near the sea, and to the north far into the mountains. They are from three to four hundred feet in height, covered from base to summit with numberless small, conical-shaped ribbed peaks, like that of the Chunder Koops. Their surface appears to have been baked to hardness by the sun. Towards the plain, a few are coated with a crust of dark brown-coloured sandstone, with which at one time the whole range seems to have been covered. A winding path, with several ascents and descents, steep, though short, leads through them. I picked up many pieces of talc (or Goruk Misree, and Cherotee, as it was called by my companions) in the watercourses near them.

On the north-eastern side is a plain of a mile in length, and half that width, much cut up by ravines. Through this the river flows over a bed of pebbles, its banks fringed with tamarisk and babool trees. On its right bank rises the Hingool Mountain, conspicuous in the range by its great height and scarped sides. The name given to the stream above the break in the Hara Mountains is the Hingool, and from them to the sea it is called the Aghor. It is always a running stream, is said to have a very long course, and rises on the melting of the snows to the northward, or, as it was described to me, without rain falling. After crossing its bed, where the water was about knee-deep, the path enters a deep ravine, which leads to a narrow valley, and, after winding among

the hills for about two miles, reaches a running stream (the Assar Poara), almost hid by two tamarisk bushes, on the banks of which is the usual halting-place.

Half a mile from the valley, in a narrow gorge, the mountains on each side of which rise perpendicularly to nearly a thousand feet, is situated the temple of Hinglaj. It is a low mud edifice, built at one end of a natural cave of small dimensions, and only contains a tomb-shaped stone, which is called the goddess Mata, or Maha Maya, at the head of the gorge. A steep and difficult ascent up the course of a waterfall leads to the top of the mountains, and after winding over their summits for some five or six miles, the pathway descends by another watercourse to the valley, where we encamped. An account of the different holy places visited, and the ceremonies performed on the journey, are fully detailed in my description of the pilgrimage to Hinglaj.

Soon after reaching our encampment, another party of armed Beroees arrived, on their way to Beyla, to learn the state of affairs. They requested me to give them tobacco and medicine, said they lived from hand to mouth, and, now that their chief was killed (he had fallen at Khelat), were worse off than before. They imagined I had come to see if the country was worth taking (as indeed did every one I met), and assured me it would never repay the trouble of conquering it. The authority of Mehrab Khan, they said, was acknowledged as far as the borders of Persia; and although his possessions had been encroached on by the Imam of Muscat, who had seized all the towns along the Coast of Mukran, and the Ameers of Sind, who had taken Kurachee and other places, his territory was still of great extent. Khelat, the capital, had been always looked on as a maiden city, until the descendant of a line of kings fell, as became him, on his throne, before the all-conquering arm of the British soldiery.

This party was under Choota Beroee, and was, I imagine, only on the look-out for plunder, as, a day or two after our return to the banks of the Aghor river, they again passed us on their way back, without stopping, as usual, for food, and that same evening one of our camels was missing, stolen, no doubt, by them. This was the limit of my excursion. The time fixed for rejoining my regiment having nearly expired, I was not able to extend my journey, as I now felt anxious to do, by proceeding along the coast as far as Gwaddel, and then turning north, through Kedje, Pungoor, and Noshky, visiting Khelat, and returning to Kurachee *viâ* Khozdar and Beyla.

On our way back, nine days after first seeing them, I again visited the Chunder Koops. The appearance of the one which has fallen in was the same in the muddy pool, but that of water, instead of being clear, as before, was quite discoloured. The stream, also, had ceased

flowing for some time, as the plain bore no marks of moisture. On reaching the summit of the larger one, it was very evident that an irruption had taken place the day before (Monday), for the channel on the western side was quite filled with slime, which had oozed down the side of the hill, and ran some thirty yards into the plain below. The dry clods I had placed when there before, were covered, and it was not safe to cross where the mud had found an issue; whereas my whole party had, when with me, walked round the edge of the basin. The jets rose as usual. So tenacious is the mud of this one, that even cocoanuts, which the Hindoos throw on it, do not sink; but in the others it is more liquid. No alteration had taken place in the appearance of the small Koops.

We now followed our former route, halting at the Phor river, near a muddy pool, and at a brackish well in the Churoo. Our next stage was over the plain beyond Dambo, and across the Poorally river (now quite dry), to a tank near Shaikh Boolum's tomb. After passing it, we crossed some low sandy ridges, and wound under a range of sandhills, on which is a well, close to a few tamarisk trees. We then came to a salt flat called the Truppa, extending from the Gooroo Chela-ka-Run to the Thura, from which it is distinguished by being totally bare of all shrubs. The tide does not affect it, but rain brings out a crust of salt. We rejoined our former route at the graves of the Gooroo and Chela, and then, entering the sandhills which encompass Sonmeeanee, descended to an oblong amphitheatre, surrounded by them, of about half a mile in width, and four in length, covered with the Savoo bush, and dotted here and there with pools of brackish water. This tract is called the Dotur Put, and it was to avoid it that we kept to the beach road when on our way to Dambo. I had been told that the Jam and his Dewan intended visiting me on my return, and offering some presents; but I fortunately reached Sonmeeanee when they were at Layaree, and after addressing letters to them both, expressing my thanks for the attention which had been paid me, and the safety with which I had traversed the country, I rode in at once to Kurachee. Most polite answers have since reached me, regretting that my unexpected departure prevented their having the pleasure of seeing me.

I have only now to add that the distance I traversed from Kurachee to the Aghor river (about 150 miles) may be characterized as a barren waste, where the want of water and food would effectually stop the progress of troops. At Sonmeeanee alone are supplies obtainable. The population is scanty, much scattered, and their state of poverty quite distressing. Men's minds are at present very unsettled, from the distraction caused by the death of so many of their chiefs, and the uncertainty of those residing at a distance from Khelat whether they are to

be under the rule of the British or one of their own tribe. This is especially the case in the Jam's territory, and most probably induced his Dewans to be so pressing to have their master taken under British protection, for they feared that in the troubles which were expected to follow the death of Mehrab Khan, some ambitious chief might attempt to wrest his patrimony from him. As an instance of this feeling I may mention, that in the hills between Layaree and Beyla copper is found in large quantities, but from the dread of exciting the cupidity of the neighbouring chiefs, it is not allowed to be worked. A Hindoo now in Kurachee loaded twenty camels with the ore, on his return from Hinglaj, unknown to the authorities, and obtained as many maunds of good metal from it; but on the circumstance reaching the ears of the Dewans, they sent to tell him his life would not be safe if he attempted to do so again, as the Jam did not permit any to be carried away, either by *purchase* or *otherwise*. The whole country is, indeed, rich in mineral productions, and well worthy the attention of an experienced geologist.

REPORTS

ON THE

TRADE OF SONMEEANEE,

THE SEAPORT OF THE PROVINCE OF LUS.

BY

LIEUTENANT M. F. GORDON,

2ND BOMBAY EUROPEAN REGIMENT,

BRITISH AGENT AT SONMEEANEE.

Submitted to Government in 1841 *and* 1842.

SONMEEANEE.

The province of Lus is bounded on the north by the Kunerchuree Hills; on the east by the Pubb Mountains; on the west it has the Haroo range; and the sea forms its southern boundary.

It is estimated at one hundred miles in length, by eighty miles in breadth, and is inhabited by the tribe of Noomreeas, whose Chief, Meer Khan (a boy of fourteen years of age), usually resides at Beyla, a town about seventy miles from the sea coast.

Sonmeeanee is the only seaport of the province. It is a small village, containing about two hundred mean houses, with a population scarcely amounting to nine hundred inhabitants. Of these, between three and four hundred are Hindoos, some of whom are engaged in trade, whilst others find employment as mechanics, &c. The Meeanees, or fishermen, form the remaining portion of the population.

The trading boats belonging to the port amount to twelve or fourteen, averaging in tonnage about eighty or a hundred candies each; but the number visiting it for commercial purposes during the open season (from September to June) is said to be between forty and fifty vessels. A considerable trade is carried on with Muscat, Kurachee, Bombay, Calicut, and other ports of less importance.

The principal exports of the province of Lus are wool, ghee, and a gum called Gogur; also oils of different kinds, with great quantities of fish, sharkfins, &c. Except about seven or eight hundred candies of moong, no other grain is grown for exportation. The chief articles of commerce brought from Kabool, and the countries to the north-west, to be exported at Sonmeeanee, are madder, saffron, assafœtida, raisins, almonds, and dried fruits of different kinds. Until last year, horses were brought down in great numbers,—sometimes as many as two thousand in the course of the season; but as large purchases were made for the use of our cavalry in Afghanistan, about five hundred horses only were embarked at this port during the past year.

The chief articles of import are English broadcloth, chintzes, muslins, tin, iron, steel, pepper, sugarcandy, cocoanuts, ginger, &c. from Bombay; dates and cloves are introduced from Muscat; and Kurachee supplies a small quantity of Sind rice.

The most valuable part of the trade is in the hands of the Puthan merchants of Kabool, who annually visit Bombay with considerable investments of the produce of their country, which they exchange for articles of European manufacture. Until within these last few months, a duty of four per cent. was levied, at Sonmeeanee, on exports and imports of every description, and, in addition to this, a transit duty of one rupee was payable at Beyla on every camel-load of merchandize passing it from the northward; but Kafilas passing Beyla, in transit from the sea coast (having paid the regular customs of four per cent. at Sonmeeanee) were not subjected to any additional impost within the Jam's territory. If the merchant was a Hindoo, he was excluded from the benefit of this regulation, and required to pay one rupee in excess, on each camel-load. Horses were charged for at the rate of Rs. 4-8-0 each, and a duty of Rs. 5 was levied on every slave imported from Muscat. The customs of Sonmeeanee were rented by a Hindoo for Rs. 24,000 a year: it is believed that they amounted to Rs. 1,000 more.

By an order of Shah Mewaz, Khan of Khelat, which was published here about six months ago,* the port and transit duties have been reduced to half of what they were formerly: a per-centage of two rupees at Sonmeeanee, and half a rupee transit duty on each camel-load at Beyla, is now the only tax on merchandize within the Jam's territory.

This reduction of the scale of duties, and the greater security of the line of communication, have already had the effect of partially bringing back the trade with Kabool into the channel in which it flowed before the arbitrary and heavy exactions of the chiefs, through whose territories it had to pass, forced it to find a safer and less expensive route.

The late Chief of Wudd, Wulee Mahomed, is spoken of as having been most exorbitant in his exactions, often enforcing payment at the rate of ten or twelve per cent. His son Ruheem Khan has been forbid to levy any transit duties, and instead of the former per-centage of Rs. 14 or Rs. 16, Rs. 2-8-0 are now levied on merchandize between Sonmeeanee and Khelat. The circuitous route by Kurachee, Sehwan, &c. will, in consequence, be abandoned, and the Afghan merchants, with whom I have had an opportunity of conversing, express an opinion that when the late enactments for the encouragement of commerce are more generally known, a great increase to trade may be confidently anticipated.

The accompanying Returns exhibit the value of all imports and exports at Sonmeeanee, from the 1st September 1840 to the 31st May 1841 (the period during which trade was carried on), at Rs. 9,91,773.

* A. D. 1841.

This, I am informed, is a considerable improvement on the trade of the preceding year, though, for the reason (no account of it having been hitherto kept here) which has already been reported to Government, I regret my inability to state the exact amount of increase which has taken place. It is, however, generally, and I believe accurately, estimated, that within the last two years, the value of the import trade has increased fully Rs. 3,00,000.

The export trade during the same period has been almost stationary, owing to the disturbed state of the country between Khelat and Beyla having prevented the Afghans from bringing down investments of assafœtida, madder, saffron, &c.,—a circumstance which, by confining their purchases in the Bombay market to narrower limits, has had an unfavourable influence on the return trade.

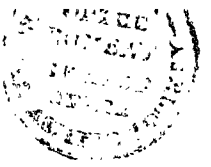
The Brahoee Chiefs to the south of Khelat have lately resorted to their former practice of levying a heavy tax on merchandize in transit. The alleged dangerous nature of the journey has been made a pretext for raising the hire of camels to more than double its usual amount (formerly the hire of a camel from Sonmeeanee to Khelat was Rs. 10 or Rs. 12, now Rs. 30 and Rs. 36 are paid); and, in consequence, comparatively few individuals have been induced to engage in a trade presenting such serious obstacles to carrying it on with advantage.

A great impulse would no doubt be given to the trade with Afghanistan by this route, were it possible for the Afghans to dispose of their investments, and effect all their purchases at this place; and such an arrangement, by bringing the mart so much nearer, would enable them to make three trips (instead of one, as at present) in the year. Most of those with whom I have conversed on the subject are fully sensible of its advantages, of which, if in their power, they would eagerly avail themselves. On the other hand, a few among them are averse to any such change, as it would, they say, have the effect of converting into merchants many individuals who (with the market at its present distance from them) have no intention of engaging in the trade, and of thus reducing the profits of those by whom it is now carried on. I need not remark on the effect which such anticipated competition would have in cheapening European manufactures in Afghanistan, and rendering them more generally accessible to the people of that country. I fear, however, that the limited quantity of goods carried off by this route does not yet hold out sufficient inducement to Bombay merchants to send investments here to be disposed of; but in the event of the trade increasing, so as to render it desirable for them to do so, it would be necessary to have timely notice of their intention conveyed to the political authorities in Afghanistan, in order to prevent any disappointment that

might ensue, if the Afghans were not to be warned in time to allow of their making corresponding arrangements.

Until about eight years ago, wool was not exported from Sonmeeanee, having previous to that period been used in the manufacture of a stuff called Nodee, then in general use among the people in this part of the country; but since it became an export to Bombay, its value has increased from Rs. 3 and Rs. 4, to Rs. 18 and Rs. 20 per Sonmeeanee maund; and the Native manufacture has, consequently, been entirely abandoned. The high price of this article naturally led to great care in the rearing of sheep, and preparing their fleeces for the market; and it is supposed that if three successive famines had not destroyed many of the flocks, the trade in wool would by this time be nearly double its present value. It is, however, again likely to improve, as famines of such long duration had not been previously experienced in this country. The wool shipped here is brought from the hills near Shah Bilawul and Wudd, and was sold in Bombay last season (as Khorasan wool) at from Rs. 130 to Rs. 150 a candy.

Ghee is the only other article exported to any extent by the traders of this place, and to it also the remarks on the wool trade apply generally: but until the supply of both (on which the comfort, if not the existence, of the people of this country may be said chiefly to depend) shall very far exceed its present value, no great increase in the consumption of our manufactures can be looked for in the southern parts of Beloochistan.



Return of all Exports and Imports conveyed by the Sonmeeanee Route (to and from Bombay) by the Afghan Merchants, during the Trading Season of 1840-41.

Sonmeeanee, 1st June 1841.

IMPORTS FROM BOMBAY.

1.	Anchovy paste	Rs. 20
2.	Barley, pearl	30
3.	Beads	900
4.	Bear's grease	50
5.	Biscuit	48
6.	Blacking	35
7.	Blankets, English	70
8.	Books	30
9.	Bottle-stands	24
10.	Braces, India rubber	60
11.	Ditto, cotton	94
12.	Broadcloth, of sorts	14,050
13.	Brushes, hair	190
14.	Ditto, clothes	28
15.	Ditto, tooth	24
16.	Bukkum (a dye)	430
17.	Buttons	1,090
18.	Camlet	84
19.	Camphor	200
20.	Canvas	90
21.	Caps, gun	80
22.	Caps, night, worsted	40
23.	Candles	200
24.	Cardamoms	1,880
25.	Cards, playing	26
26.	Chintz	81,510
27.	Cigars	1,100
28.	Cinnamon	1,240
29.	Cloaks	90
30.	Cloves	1,150
31.	Coffee	350
32.	Coffee-mills	18
33.	Combs, hair	190
34.	Ditto, curry	124
35.	Copper slabs	12,500
36.	Copper vessels	610
37.	Corduroy	300
38.	Crockery	440
39.	Cutlery	1,680

40.	Desks, writing, China	Rs. 30
41.	Dimity	7,025
42.	Dish-covers, tin	24
43.	Drawers, worsted	90
44.	Duck, of sorts	725
45.	Eau-de-Cologne	12
46.	Esprit-de-rose	50
47.	Flannel	750
48.	Flannel shirts	200
49.	Fowling-piece	125
50.	Ginghams	64
51.	Ginger, China, preserved	810
52.	Ditto, Jamaica	50
53.	Glass-ware	300
54.	Gloves, leather	310
55.	Ditto, moleskin	70
56.	Gowns, chintz	90
57.	Handkerchiefs, silk	236
58.	Ditto, China	100
59.	Ditto, cotton	336
60.	Ditto, shawl	60
61.	Herring paste	24
62.	Hooks and eyes	25
63.	Hosiery	950
64.	Ink-powder	70
65.	Inkstands	30
66.	Iron, bar	168
67.	Iron utensils	600
68.	Jacconets	12,090
69.	Jamdanees	48,760
70.	Jams and jellies	200
71.	Jussut	220
72.	Lead	500
73.	Longcloth	66,430
74.	Lucifer matches	30
75.	Moleskin	520
76.	Mugs, pewter	50
77.	Mulmuls	14,100
78.	Mustard	24
79.	Needles and pins	670
80.	Nutmegs	140
81.	Oil, Macassar	90
82.	Oil, salad	24
83.	Oysters, preserved	30
84.	Padlocks, iron	60
85.	Paper, foolscap	650
86.	Ditto, ditto, books	80
87.	Ditto, letter	312

88.	Paper, note	Rs. 146
89.	Ditto, ditto, demy	116
90.	Pencils	80
91.	Pepper, black	3,130
92.	Peppermint	104
93.	Peppermint lozenges	60
94.	Perfumery	150
95.	Pickles	48
96.	Pistols	45
97.	Plaid, worsted	55
98.	Powder, gun	40
99.	Ditto, tooth	30
100.	Ditto, flask	20
101.	Pomatum	74
102.	Quills	200
103.	Reel cotton	120
104.	Saddlery	1,115
105.	Salmon, preserved	325
106.	Sardines, preserved	150
107.	Satin-jean	1,626
108.	Sealing-wax	50
109.	Seidlitz, in cases	250
110.	Shirts, cotton	718
111.	Ditto, ditto, coloured	200
112.	Soap, Windsor, &c.	500
113.	Soda powders	200
114.	Sodawater	160
115.	Spectacles	400
116.	Spoons, pewter	48
117.	Sheeting cloth	32,275
118.	Shubnum ditto	3,000
119.	Sugarcandy	3,600
120.	Sugar, common	7,400
121.	Stocks, silk and satin	100
122.	Table-cloths	170
123.	Table-covers	200
124.	Tea	6,110
125.	Teapots, Queen's metal	50
126.	Thread and tape	1,750
127.	Ticking	40
128.	Tinning (Kulaee)	6,740
129.	Tobacco	350
130.	Tooruskutee	250
131.	Towels	270
132.	Turkey twilled cloth (Alwan)	1,34,082
133.	Umbrellas	70
134.	Velvet	9,040

135. Velvet chintz	Rs. 2,270
136. Vinegar	12
137. Wafers	15
138. Zebras.	1,32,551
Total Value	Rs. 6,25,284

EXPORTS TO BOMBAY.

1. Assafœtida	Rs. 1,050
2. Carpets	800
3. 254 horses, estimated at	63,500
4. Jeera	820
5. Madder	890
Total Value of Exports by Afghans	Rs. 67,060
Ditto of Imports by ditto	6,25,284
Estimated Value of Merchandize landed* at Kurachee.	75,000
Total Value of the Afghan Trade by this route	Rs. 7,67,344

Return of the Trade carried on, by Merchants residing at Sonmeeanee, with Bombay, Muscat, and Sind, during the Season of 1840-41.

IMPORTS FROM BOMBAY.

1. Beads	Rs. 50
2. Cajoo nuts	160
3. Cardamoms	134
4. Chuna.	48
5. Chab-Chenaee	48
6. Cinnamon	10
7. Cloves.	45
8. Copper vessels	250
9. Copra.	1,381
10. Ginger, dry	7
11. Gaguneea	30
12. Gootal.	37
13. Hooka-snakes	30
14. Hyd (a dye)	603
15. Iron, bar	2,945
16. Iron nails	500
17. Iron cooking vessels	95
18. Jownree	8,025
19. Lead	310

* The boat on board which these goods were shipped sailed from Bombay too late in the season to reach Sonmeeanee, and consequently put into the port of Kurachee.

20.	Lohan	Rs. 4
21.	Looking-glasses, Native	32
22.	Najoolee	45
23.	Nareeal	271
24.	Noushadur	12
25.	Nutmegs	24
26.	Padlocks, iron	30
27.	Paper, China	150
28.	Pepper	2,070
29.	Phutkuree	150
30.	Rice	19,740
31.	Silk, raw	114
32.	Sindur	6
33.	Soap	50
34.	Sootlee	535
35.	Sooparee	1,370
36.	Sugarcandy	370
37.	Sugar, common (Kund)	6,900
38.	Tinning (Kulaee)	10
39.	Tobacco	204
40.	Maderpat	12,000
41.	Dorias	1,200
42.	Jamdanees	1,200
43.	Jacconets	1,620
44.	Madrassees	1,800
	Total Value of Imports from Bombay	Rs. 64,615

IMPORTS FROM MUSCAT.

1.	Almonds	Rs. 144
2.	Dates, wet	29,660
3.	Ditto, dry	400
4.	Gunpowder	30
5.	Madder	565
6.	Limes	56
7.	Wheat	11,370
	Total Value of Imports from Muscat	Rs. 42,225

IMPORTS FROM SIND.

1.	Bhung	Rs. 51
2.	Goor	686
3.	Loongees	120
4.	Puttoo	200
5.	Methee	126
6.	Rice	10,020
	Total Value of Imports from Sind	Rs. 11,403

Exports to Bombay.

1.	Fish	Rs. 474
2.	Fishmaws	2,630
3.	Ghee	34,287
4.	Googur	3,050
5.	Indigo	900
6.	Oil, sursee	12,355
7.	Purwas (a dye)	865
8.	Sharkfins	1,437
9.	Wool	1,18,720
	Total Value of Exports to Bombay.. ..	Rs. 1,74,718

Exports to Muscat.

1.	Cotton	Rs. 820
2.	Goat-hair	162
3.	Hides..	215
4.	Ditto, tanned..	70
5.	Kupats (mat bags)	168
	Total Value of Exports to Muscat.. ..	Rs. 1,435

Exports to Sind.

1.	Borees (coarse Kumlees)	Rs. 2,376
2.	Khar (food for cattle)	130
3.	Khul (ditto)	430
4.	Moong	1,260
5.	Pherlas (mats)	346
6.	Salt	46
7.	Sirus	450
8.	Sudur..	195
	Total Value of Exports to Sind	Rs. 5,033

Summary of the Entire Trade of Sonmeeanee, for the Season 1840-41.

IMPORTS.

Value of Imports from Bombay by Afghans	.. Rs.	6,25,284
Ditto ditto by Resident Traders		64,615
Ditto from Muscat by ditto		42,225
Ditto from Sind by ditto		11,403
Total Value of Imports ..	.. Rs.	7,43,527

EXPORTS.

Value of Exports to Bombay by Afghans	.. Rs.	67,060
Ditto ditto by Resident Traders		1,74,718
Ditto to Muscat by ditto		1,435
Ditto to Sind by ditto		5,033
Total Value of Exports..	.. Rs.	2,48,246
Ditto of Imports.. ..		7,43,527
Value of the whole Trade..	.. Rs.	9,91,773

From Lieutenant GORDON, British Agent at Sonmeeanee,

To J. P. WILLOUGHBY, Esq., Secretary to Government, Bombay.

Sonmeeanee, 25th June 1842.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward, for submission to the Honorable the Governor in Council, the accompanying Returns of the Trade of Sonmeeanee, from 1st September 1841 to 31st May 1842, which exhibit its value at Rs. 16,20,803, being an increase on the corresponding period of 1840-41 of Rs. 6,24,430.

2. This increase has taken place under circumstances peculiarly unfavourable. A few of the Kandahar merchants, after completing their investments at Bombay, sold them off on the spot on hearing of the disturbances in Afghanistan, and that the only two Kafilas which have this season ventured beyond Khelat from this side had been plundered by the insurgents. The same causes also deterred others from purchasing so largely as they would otherwise have done; and the present returns, therefore, will not be considered a fair criterion of what the trade by this route would become in times of greater security.

3. The modification of the custom dues at this port gives general satisfaction, and has quite put an end to disputes, which were too frequent when, as formerly, the amount of duty imposed depended chiefly on the whims of the individuals who collected it. The Jam of Beyla, also, has felt the advantage of an arrangement under which his revenues from customs have this season increased about Rs. 4,000. When the port dues here and at Kurachee were both alike, as was the case a few years ago, both places enjoyed about an equal share of the Kandahar transit trade. A trifling reduction of the duties here, however, added to the consideration shown by the late Jam of Beyla to merchants, brought at once a few of those who had given the preference to Kurachee to this port; others soon followed their example, and for the last two years the whole of the Kandahar trade with Bombay has passed through this channel. This circumstance has, I understand, attracted the attention of the Ameers at Hyderabad, from whose agents letters have been recently received here by certain merchants, strongly urging them to abandon this port in favour of Kurachee, where, it is affirmed, duties will, in future, be levied at the reduced rates exacted here, and arrangements entered into with the tribes on the route by Shah Bilawul, for a cheaper passage to Kafilas through their districts than is now obtained *viâ* Beyla and Wudd, to Khelat. It is therefore to be hoped that this spirit of rivalry may be the means, without divert-

ing the traffic from its present course, of encouraging it to some extent, by prompting those chiefs who now profit by its transit through their territories to additional exertions to assist and protect those who carry it on.

4. The difficulty of obtaining carriage for the conveyance of merchandize has not been so great as might be expected. But few of the Brahoees between this and Khelat, who hire out their camels regularly, have been induced to sell them to Government; besides, the Afghan merchants have no fears on this account, as they say their own country affords an ample supply of carriage, which would readily be obtained, on the restoration of tranquillity there, to meet the probable demand consequent on an increased trade with India.

5. It will appear from the returns that but little wool has been this year exported from Sonmeeanee. A small quantity imported into Bombay early in the season was sold at considerable loss, and, in consequence, the dealers in wool at this place have kept back the bulk of their stock of this article, in expectation of remunerating prices after the monsoon.

6. I may mention that about Rs. 60,000 worth of this year's imports were paid for with Company's currency, brought down by individuals in sums of Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 15,000, and at immense risk, from Kandahar and Khelat to Bombay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. Forbes Gordon,
British Agent, Sonmeeanee.

EXPORTS FROM SONMEEANEE TO BOMBAY BY RESIDENT TRADERS.

1. Fish ...	...Rs.	142	0 0
2. Fishmaws (Phōta) ...		680	0 0
3. Fish oil ...		84	0 0
4. Gogur (a gum) ...		5,020	0 0
5. Khor (ditto) ...		178	12 0
6. Purwas (a dye) ...		1,078	0 0
7. Sharkfins ...		892	0 0
8. Wool... ...		50,550	0 0
Total Value of Exports to Bombay by Resident Traders...	Rs.	58,624	12 0

IMPORTS FROM MUSCAT.

1. Almonds ...	...Rs.	259	0 0
2. Dates ...		29,674	0 0
3. Gunpowder ...		77	0 0
4. Limes ...		84	0 0
5. Joban ...		37	8 0
6. Māwā ...		89	0 0
7. Melub ...		40	0 0
8. Sabur ...		15	0 0
Total Value of Imports from Muscat...	...Rs.	30,275	8 0

EXPORTS TO MUSCAT.

1. Borees (a coarse stuff, made chiefly from goat-hair, with a little wool mixed) ...	...Rs.	2,233	8 0
2. Goat-hair		43	12 0
3. Hides		1,350	0 0
4. Indigo (grown near Beyla)...		805	0 0
5. Kupats (mat bags) ...		86	0 0
6. Madder		676	0 0
7. Phulas (mat materials) ...		256	8 0
8. Suddrees (small mats) ...		522	0 0
Total Value of Exports to Muscat...	...Rs.	5,972	12 0

IMPORTS FROM SIND.

1. Bhung	...Rs.	22	0 0
2. Choones, 358 pieces ...		408	12 0
3. Goor...		3,653	0 0
4. Indigo		840	0 0
5. Jowaree		3,092	0 0

6. Khès, 133 pieces	...Rs.	466	0	0
7. Loongees, 73		110	4	0
8. Maith (a mineral)		310	0	0
9. Opium		91	0	0
10. Pèshgeers, 1,248 pieces (for women's dresses)		1,873	12	0
11. Rice, red		47,013	0	0
12. Soosees, 160 pieces (striped cotton cloths)		3,350	0	0
13. Turbans		26	0	0
Total Value of Imports from Sind...	...Rs.	61,255	12	0

EXPORTS TO THE COAST OF SIND.

1. Cloth (a coarse cotton)	...Rs.	220	0	0
2. Cotton seeds		28	8	0
3. Ghee		6,396	0	0
4. Khur (food for cattle)		610	0	0
5. Khar		364	12	0
6. Oil (Sirus Kootel)		4,947	0	0
7. Moong		1,088	0	0
8. Salt		45	4	0
9. Sirya		435	0	0
Total Value of Exports to Sind ...	...Rs.	14,134	8	0

Summary of the Trade of Sonmeeanee for 1841-42.

IMPORTS.

Value of Imports from Bombay by Afghans	...Rs.	12,73,221	1	0
Ditto ditto by Resident Traders... ...		93,776	0	0
Ditto from Muscat by ditto		30,275	0	0
Ditto from the Coast of Sind		61,255	12	0
Total Value of Imports ...	...Rs.	14,58,527	13	0

EXPORTS.

Value of Exports to Bombay by Afghans	...Rs.	83,544	0	0
Ditto ditto by Resident Traders		58,624	12	0
Ditto to Muscat by ditto		5,972	12	0
Ditto to the Sind Coast by ditto		14,134	8	0
Total Value of Exports...	...Rs.	1,62,276	0	0
Ditto of Imports... ...		14,58,527	0	0
Total Value of the Trade...	...Rs.	16,20,803	0	0

Comparative Statement of the Value of Imports and Exports at Sonmeeanee for the Seasons of 1840-41 *and* 1841-42.

IMPORTS.

Imports in 1840-41.	Value.	Value in 1841-42.		
	Rs.	*Rs.*	*a.*	*p.*
By Afghans from Bombay.....	6,29,884	12,73,221	1	0
By Resident Traders at Bombay..	64,615	93,776	0	0
Do. do. at Muscat...	42,225	30,275	0	0
Do. do. at Sind....	11,403	61,255	12	0
Total Imports ..... Rs.	7,48,127	14,58,527	13	0

EXPORTS.

Exports in 1840-41.	Value.	Value in 1841-42.		
	Rs.	*Rs.*	*a.*	*p.*
By Afghans to Bombay	67,060	83,544	0	0
By Resident Traders to Bombay..	1,74,718	58,624	12	0
Do. do. to Muscat..	1,434	5,972	12	0
Do. do. to Sind....	5,033	14,134	8	0
Exports ..... Rs.	2,48,246	1,62,276	0	0
Imports	7,48,127	14,58,527	0	0
Total..... Rs.	9,96,373	16,20,803	0	0

Return of Imports and Exports at Sonmeeanee, from 1*st September* 1841 *to* 1*st May* 1842, *showing the Cost at Bombay.*

1.	Beads, ruby, crystal, &c. ... ...Rs.	4,989	0	0
2.	Bells, small	9	0	0
3.	Betelnuts	41	0	0
4.	Blankets, 100, at Rs. 3 each	300	0	0
5.	Book muslin, 1,835 pieces, at Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 4 each ...	6,248	0	0
6.	Broadcloth	3,026	0	0
7.	Brocade, gold	375	0	0
8.	Bukkum (a dye)	70	0	0
9.	Buttons	12	8	0
10.	Cajoo nuts	17	10	0
11.	Camphor	75	0	0
12.	Candles	240	0	0
13.	Chinaware	4,150	0	0
14.	Chintzes, 17,189 pieces, at Rs. 3 to Rs. 15 each	1,58,832	0	0
15.	Ditto, velvet, 1,033 pieces, at Rs. 15 to Rs. 25 each ...	24,422	8	0
16.	Chundun	20	0	0

17. Cinnamon	Rs.	930	0	0
18. Copper		19,678	10	0
19. Copper vessels		403	8	0
20. Copra		114	2	0
21. Cowries		15	0	0
22. Curry combs and brushes		755	0	0
23. Cutlery		1,790	0	0
24. Dimity, 897 pieces, at Rs. 3-12-0 to Rs. 4-6-0 each ...		3,583	6	0
25. Doputtas, 361 pieces, at Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 each ...		752	6	0
26. Dorias, 580 pieces, at Rs. 2-2-0 to Rs. 4 each		1,706	8	0
27. Fireworks		14	14	0
28. Gingham, 73 pieces, at Rs. 3-8-0 each		255	0	0
29. Ginger, dry		14	0	0
30. Glassware		2,000	0	0
31. Goolal		16	14	0
32. Iron		117	8	0
33. Iron nails		26	12	0
34. Iron Towas		779	8	0
35. Jacconets, 5,424 pieces, at Rs. 2-6-0 to Rs. 5-14-0 each...		22,164	0	0
36. Jamdanees, 34,247 pieces, at Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs. 4-4-0 each..		76,874	0	0
37. Jean, 1,335 pieces, at Rs. 5 to Rs. 16 each		14,895	0	0
38. Kinkob		12,012	0	0
39. Lead...		80	0	0
40. Leather		240	0	0
41. Looking-glasses		2,061	0	0
42. Longcloth, 25,635 pieces, at Rs. 5-4-0 to Rs. 12 & Rs. 15 each		1,89,960	9	0
43. Loongees		50	0	0
44. Madapollams, 9,486 pieces, at Rs. 2-12-0 to Rs. 8-4-0 each		49,169	0	0
45. Madrassees, 214 pieces, at Rs. 11 to Rs. 12-8-0 each ...		2,506	0	0
46. Medicines		40	0	0
47. Mulmuls, 11,248 pieces, at Rs. 2-12-0 to Rs. 5 each ...		42,433	0	0
48. Nankeen		32	8	0
49. Nutmegs		25	6	0
50. Padlocks, 725 dozen		1,462	8	0
51. Paper, foolscap and letter		741	6	0
52. Ditto, China		124	6	0
53. Ditto, old		325	0	0
54. Pepper, black		3,668	0	0
55. Ditto, red		21	8	0
56. Pèshgeers, 210 pieces, at Rs. 2 and Rs. 6 each		1,060	0	0
57. Rope, cotton		535	10	0
58. Roomals, 2,926 dozen, at Rs. 1-4-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 per dozen.		5,823	4	0
59. Saws		136	0	0
60. Scissors		1,401	8	0
61. Shawls, 1,063, at Rs. 2 to Rs. 6 each		5,671	12	0
62. Sheeting, 8,194 pieces, at Rs. 6 to Rs. 16 each		92,094	0	0

63. Shubnum, 2,421 pieces, at Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 each	Rs.	6,390	0 0
64. Silks (Atlashee Reshim)		9,931	4 0
65. Sindoora		9	9 0
66. Soap...		64	4 0
67. Soomba		800	0 0
68. Soorees		124	0 0
69. Steel		994	0 0
70. Sugarcandy		14,973	8 0
71. Sugar, soft		29,706	7 0
72. Tea		2,840	0 0
73. Tinning		540	0 0
74. Tinsel		44	0 0
75. Thread		26	12 0
76. Turkey cloth (Ulwan), 22,223 pieces, at Rs. 7-8-0 to Rs. 14 each		2,69,029	13 0
77. Turmeric		651	0 0
78. Velvet, 1,629 pieces		35,601	0 0
79. Wrist ornaments		3,490	0 0
80. Yarn, cotton, 15,730 lbs., at 6 as. and 8 as. per lb. ...		7,463	0 0
81. Zebra cloths (Ubra), 44,573 pieces, at Rs. 1-14-0 to Rs. 4-12-0 each		1,29,254	9 0
Total Value of Imports by Afghans...	Co.'s Rs.	12,73,221	1 0

EXPORTS FROM SONMEEANEE TO BOMBAY.

1. 256 horses	Rs.	64,000	0 0
2. Indigo		12,960	0 0
3. Jeerah		5,620	0 0
4. Pistah		196	0 0
5. Madder		588	0 0
6. Wool		180	0 0
Total Value of Exports to Bombay by Afghans...	Co.'s Rs.	83,544	0 0

IMPORTS FROM BOMBAY, BY TRADERS AT SONMEEANEE.

1. Alum	Rs.	235	0 0
2. Betelnuts		2,175	0 0
3. Broadcloth		174	0 0
4. Cajoo nuts		74	0 0
5. Cardamoms...		100	0 0
6. Chintzes		654	0 0
7. Chundun		12	8 0
8. Cinnamon		108	0 0
9. Copper utensils		180	0 0
10. Copra		3,122	0 0
11. Coriander seed		12	0 0
12. Cowries		82	8 0

13. Dimity ... ...Rs.	22	12	0
14. Doputtas	495	0	0
15. Dorias	1,437	8	0
16. Gingham	85	4	0
17. Goolal	28	0	0
18. Gram	400	0	0
19. Handkerchiefs	168	0	0
20. Hooka-snakes	15	0	0
21. Iron, bar	3,141	0	0
22. Iron nails	195	0	0
23. Iron Towas	123	0	0
24. Jacconets	540	0	0
25. Jamdanees	1,303	0	0
26. Jowaree	11,015	0	0
27. Lac	28	0	0
28. Laltala	70	0	0
29. Lead...	413	0	0
30. Loung	108	0	0
31. Madapollams	12,416	0	0
32. Mulmuls	127	0	0
33. Naral	292	0	0
34. Onions	35	0	0
35. Paper, China	45	0	0
36. Pepper, black	4,170	0	0
37. Ditto, red	6	0	0
38. Pèshgeers	204	0	0
39. Rice	26,580	0	0
40. Soap...	137	0	0
41. Soosee	215	0	0
42. Steel...	428	0	0
43. Sulphur	58	0	0
44. Sundoora	10	0	0
45. Sugarcandy	1,645	0	0
46. Sugar, soft	18,127	0	0
47. Silk	96	0	0
48. Thread, cotton	57	8	0
49. Tinning	57	0	0
50. Tobacco	1,043	0	0
51. Turmeric	1,438	0	0
52. Velvet	36	0	0
53. Walnuts	137	0	0
Total Value of Imports from Bombay by Resident Traders ...Rs.	93,776	0	0

BRIEF REPORT

ON THE

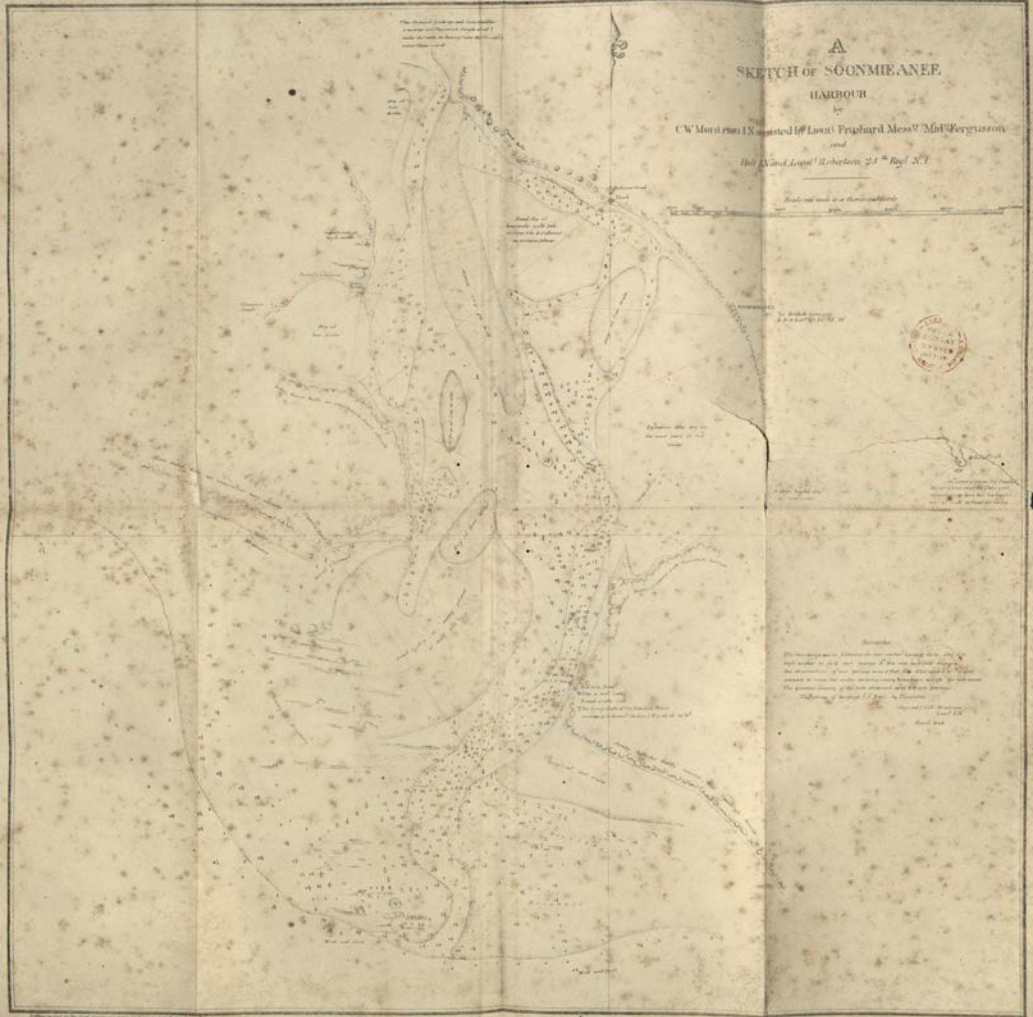
HARBOUR AND TOWN OF SONMEEANEE;

ACCOMPANIED BY A CHART OF THE HARBOUR.

BY

LIEUTENANT C. W. MONTRIOU,
INDIAN NAVY.

Submitted to Government in June 1842.


A
SKETCH OF SOONMEANEE
HARBOUR
by
C.W. Moreton I.N. assisted by Lieut. Prichard Mess.rs Mid.n Fergusson
and
Mid.n Leland, Lieut.t Robertson, 35.th Regt. N.I.

HARBOUR AND TOWN OF SONMEEANEE.

From Lieutenant C. W. Montriou, I. N.,

To Captain Robert Oliver, R. N., Superintendent Indian Navy.

Dated the 15th June 1842.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward to you a Sketch of the Harbour of Sonmeeanee, examined in January and February 1842, in the Honorable Company's Schooner *Shannon*.

2. The various positions in the plan, both afloat and on shore, were laid down from angles carefully measured by sextants made by Troughton; and at the British Agency, the positions were fixed by a theodolite by Gilbert. The original base was measured by sound, the mean of several observations being taken.

3. The Harbour of Sonmeeanee is situated at the northern head of the bay of the same name, and the entrance is between two sandy points. The western one is not well defined, being a low range of sandhills, utterly destitute of vegetation; the eastern one has some low tamarisk trees on it, and forms more in a bluff. The high land at the back forms into remarkable peaks, sloping down to seaward, and the greatest elevation of the ranges appears to be about 2,000 feet. During the greater part of the time we were at Sonmeeanee, they were enveloped in a dense haze, and at no time was the whole of the high land visible at once.

4. The breadth at the entrance of the harbour, between the western and eastern points, is about 5,400 yards, but there is a bar right across it, having breakers on it at all times. The least water we found, over the part used by the Native vessels as the channel across, was a fathom and a quarter at low-water spring tides; and the channel through the bar is about 2,500 yards in length, and the breadth at the narrowest part about 300 yards. It deepens over into a channel on the eastern shore, which is about four miles and three quarters in length, and at the broadest part its breadth is about 600 yards, and at the narrowest

about 200 yards, terminating at about a mile and three quarters to the westward of the town of Sonmeeanee. The large Native buggalows anchor at the northern end of it, and at high-water cross over and anchor near the shore, at about a mile and a quarter from the town, where they discharge their cargoes. On the western side of the entrance there is only a boat channel, leading into a deep water channel, which runs up to the northward for about seven or eight miles, when it loses itself in a deep morass, and tamarisk jungle, over which, in heavy rains, the Poorally river is said to flow. Another river, the Vindhur, disembogues into Sonmeeanee Harbour, to the eastward of the town, close to the place called the White Tomb on the accompanying sketch, but the banks are not well defined for some distance, and it is only in heavy rains that the Vindhur flows over the flats.

5. The town or village of Sonmeeanee is situated on the northern side of the harbour, on a low range of sandhills. It is without any defence, and the houses consist of an assemblage of mud huts, having ventilators on the roofs, placed towards the prevailing winds. The inhabitants appear to be wretchedly poor, with the exception of a few Hindoos, in whom all the trade of the place centres. During our stay at Sonmeeanee, ten large buggalows arrived from Bombay, Ghorabaree, and Muscat, laden with rice, dates, piece goods, bar iron, and pig lead, all of which is taken into the interior by Afghan merchants, who come down in the fine season to Sonmeeanee, for the purpose of trading.

6. We had great difficulty in procuring the most trifling supplies, and in case of any body of troops being sent by the Sonmeeanee route, as far as Sonmeeanee is concerned, they must take their own supplies. Water is procured by digging pits in the sand, which is frequently brackish. The pits or holes are about four or five feet deep, and are above high-water mark. They soon become exhausted, but when they become again filled up with sand, are dug out afresh. There is one well to the northward of the town, which is built with logs of wood, and yields a tolerable supply: it is used for watering the camels and other cattle belonging to the place, and to the different Kafilas that halt at Sonmeeanee.

7. From the observations made during one spring, the rise and fall of the tide at Sonmeeanee is about nine feet on the full and change; but I noticed that, when the wind was strong from the southward and westward, there appeared to be more water.

8. The velocity of the tide is very irregular; the greatest we observed was two knots per hour.

9. Should Sonmeeanee ever be used for the landing of troops and stores, the channel across the bar will require to be buoyed, and the means of disembarking or embarking the troops, &c. must accompany

the vessels, as there are but few boats belonging to the place, the number of large and small ones being about twenty-four; but during the fine season the greater part are employed on the Coast of Mukran, catching and salting fish;—in the south-west monsoon they are all laid up.

10. Large vessels will have to anchor outside of the Harbour of Sonmeeanee, at the distance of about three miles from the outer edge of the bar, in six or seven fathoms water. The holding ground is good, being a stiff mud; but the anchorage is open to the whole force of the winds from south to west, and, with even a moderate breeze, there is a very heavy ground-swell, and heavy breakers right across the entrance to the harbour.

11. During our sojourn at Sonmeeanee, the prevailing winds were from the westward; which, I was informed by the fishermen, was the case nearly throughout the year, making it in most cases a lee shore. The tide of flood outside, at the head of Sonmeeanee Bay, runs to the south-eastward, the ebb setting in a contrary direction.

12. In crossing the bar of Sonmeeanee in ship's boats, a good look-out must be kept for rollers, which frequently show themselves very suddenly, although the water may appear perfectly smooth. At night, I would advise that none but the Native boats, used to the place, should be employed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) Charles W. Montriou,
Lieutenant, Indian Navy.

Bombay, June 15th, 1842.

NARRATIVE OF A JOURNEY

FROM

KHELAT TO SONMEEANEE;

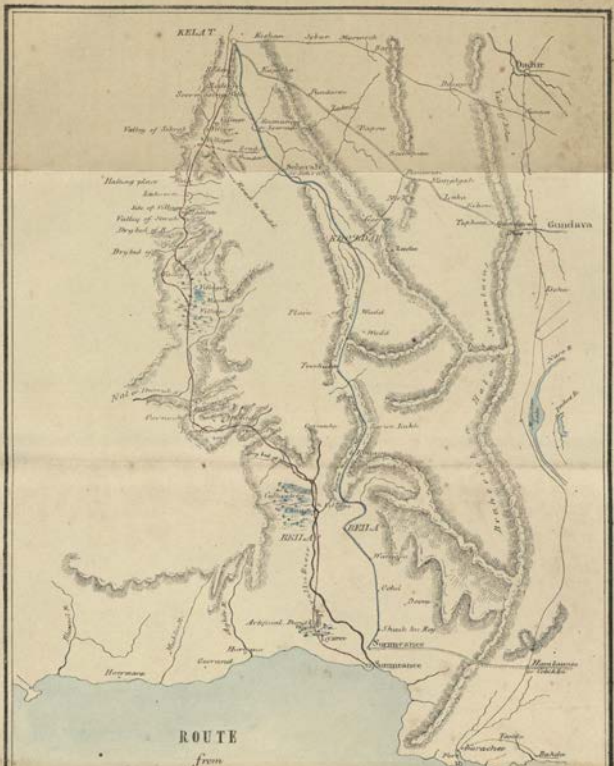
PERFORMED, IN NOVEMBER 1839,

BY CAPTAIN JAMES OUTRAM,

23RD REGIMENT BOMBAY NATIVE INFANTRY.

ACCOMPANIED BY A SKETCH, AND DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE TRAVERSED.

Submitted to Government on the 13th December 1839.



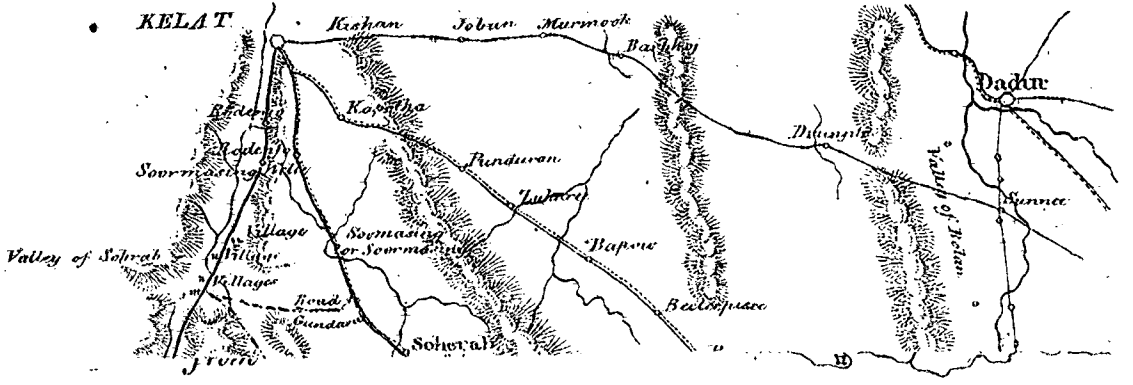
ROUTE

from

KELAT TO SONMEANEE.

Scale 32 Miles to 1 Inch.

LITHOGRAPHED IN THE CHIEF ENGINEER'S OFFICE, BY E. D. JESUS, BOMBAY 1ST OCTOBER 1856.



KELAT to SONMEANEE.

Scale 32 Miles to 1 Inch.

LITHOGRAPHED IN THE CHIEF ENGINEER'S OFFICE BY F. D. JESUS.- BOMBAY 15th OCTOBER 1856.

JOURNEY FROM KHELAT TO SONMEEANEE.

It being a point of importance to ascertain the practicability or otherwise of a direct road for troops from Kandahar and Shawl, through Beloochistan, to the sea, *viâ* Khelat, I determined on exploring that through *Nal*, said to be the best Kafila route, the only other road having been reported on by Colonel Pottinger thirty years previously.

Accordingly, being relieved from military duty by the successful termination of hostilities consequent on the capture of Khelat on the 13th November 1839, and honoured by General Willshire's despatches for the Bombay Government, I left camp (before Khelat) at midnight on on the 15th idem, disguised in Afghan costume, and accompanied by two holy Syuds of Shawl, two armed attendants of theirs, and one of my own; the whole party of six persons being mounted on four ponies, and two camels, carrying provisions for the road, and as much grain for the animals as we could conveniently take.

My preparations being scarcely completed on the 15th, I had intended to delay till next day; but that forenoon the Syuds came, to urge immediate departure, in order, they said, to precede, if possible, the news of the death of the Chiefs Wulee Mahomed of Wudd, and Shah Dost of Nal, who were slain in the combat of the 13th. It being considered advisable to depart as secretly as possible, we agreed to leave camp at midnight.

16*th November*.—Nineteen hours in the saddle. Halted at 4 P. M. for an hour at Rodinjoe, after a pleasant march of four hours in bright moonlight, but bitterly cold. Not a soul in the village, it being usual for the inhabitants to emigrate to the warmer climate of Kutch Gundava for the winter. At daybreak, continued our journey to Sohrab, a cluster of villages, also deserted, for the same reason, with the exception of one or two families remaining in each, to look after the premises. On this day's march passed many groups of fugitive women from Khelat, the men who ought to have protected them either having been killed in fight, or outstripped them in flight! One party, however, was better attended than the rest, having several armed men with it (but all the females, except one old lady, were on foot); on

coming up to which my friends the Syuds were recognized as old acquaintances, and a long detail of the hardships they had endured was entered into by the ladies, who, it appeared, were the families of the Khan's brother, and of the principal minister, Mahomed Hussan, who, poor things, had never been beyond the precincts of a Harem before. It behoved us to remain with them a sufficient time to listen to their griefs, while we kept the same road; and especially was I called upon, in my holy character of Peer (as which my companions had announced me, and I had afterwards to support throughout the journey), to display sympathy, which I did by apparent attention, though not understanding a word they said, while one of my companions relieved the mother for a time of the burden of Mahomed Hussan's child, by carrying it on horseback before him. My situation during the time we accompanied this party was by no means enviable; for, independent of the fairness of my complexion being calculated to excite suspicion, (although concealed as much as possible by a large turban tied over the chin,) it so happened that I had equipped myself and servant in apparel taken from Mahomed Hussan's own wardrobe, from which the Prize Agents had permitted me to select what was necessary for my disguise. Fortunately I had considered the humblest garb most suited to the character I was to assume, and the clothes I selected were probably of too common a description to have passed through the Harem, the fair hands of whose inmates embroidered the more costly suits. Whether from that cause, or that their cares diverted their thoughts from such trifles, our garments were not recognized, and we took the first opportunity of pleading an excuse to leave the poor creatures behind. We were pestered, however, throughout the journey, by horsemen galloping up from different directions, to inquire into the particulars of the Khelat disaster; but my friends the Syuds always managed to place themselves in such a position as to be first questioned, and had then so much of interest to communicate to the inquirers that I remained unnoticed. The sensation created by the news of the fall of Khelat, and death of Mehrab Khan and the other chiefs, was very great; and, as far as I could understand, many were the curses poured on the "Feeringees," and vows of vengeance; while national vanity induced them to seek every means of excusing the defeat of their countrymen. The more they questioned, however, the more were they downhearted at the undeniable evidence of the superiority of "Feeringee" prowess; and I suspect their ardour to avenge their brethren was considerably cooled by what they learnt, and will soon evaporate entirely, though we were told that the Khan's brother, and his spiritual adviser, who yesterday had passed in flight, gave out that they were only going to assemble the tribes, to assail our troops in their descent through the passes.

We selected, for our bivouac that night, the shelter of the walls of a deserted village; but our arrival was observed, and notwithstanding the apparently deserted state of the country, people flocked to us from all quarters, to inquire regarding relatives and friends engaged at Khelat. Among others, were agents sent back by the Khan's brother, to meet and escort his and the minister's families, which we had passed in the morning. My companions "the Syuds" were not sparing in their taunts at the conduct of the Khan's brother, for leaving his family behind to walk on foot, while he and his companions fled on horseback: they also hinted that he must have been very *precipitate* in leaving Khelat, as there was no egress from the place for an hour before Mehrab Khan fell in the citadel. This indignation on the part of my friends elicited much applause in the assembly, and the emissaries of the Khan's brother (I forget his name) looked very foolish; but they talked big, and said he was only gone to raise the clans, to cut off the "Feeringees" in the pass. I afterwards asked the Syuds if this was likely, as in that case I should wish to send back some warning to the General, that such was contemplated. They assured me, however, that the blow struck on the 13th prevented any chance of any obstruction to the English being attempted; that no body of Beloochees would now dare to unite to oppose us; and that the Khan's brother merely urged that pretext to cover his own cowardice. During these discussions, I avoided the inconvenience of being personally questioned, by pretending to sleep; but my companions had to satisfy a succession of inquirers till night was well advanced, when, the moment we were relieved from their presence, we determined on pushing on immediately, instead of resting till morning, as we had intended, to avoid detention, and the inconvenient questioning by fresh visitors we might expect to be assailed by, in the morning. A poor man was persuaded to engage with us as guide, but only on condition that I would furnish a charm to insure a sick camel from harm during his absence. Accordingly, a tuft of the animal's hair was brought to me, and I was obliged, in support of my assumed character, to go through the farce of apparently muttering cabalistic words over it. God forgive the hypocrisy!

Travelled six hours further that night, to a stream of clear water, where we bivouacked till daybreak. In the morning, we were delighted to find the traces of the horses and camels of the Khan's brother, and other fugitives, which we had hitherto followed, strike off to the left, taking the road to Wudd, their being in our front having caused us considerable anxiety heretofore.

17*th*.—Ten hours. Continued our journey for ten hours to Parkoo, a village lately destroyed by the Khan for some contumacy of its inha-

bitants, where we found comfortable shelter for the night amidst the ruins, and were spared the society of strangers, of whom we fortunately met none during this day's march, the few hamlets we passed being at this time entirely deserted.

18*th*.—Seventeen hours. Departed at daybreak, and crossed a high range of hills by a goat-path, impracticable for any laden cattle. My companions, having heard of persons being on the high road to Nal whom they thought it prudent to avoid, occupied five hours in reaching that place, but passed it, and rested in the jungles three miles beyond, sending one of the Syuds and two attendants into the village for horse grain. Unfortunately the latter missed our hiding-place, and passed on; for whom, having waited till evening, we became alarmed, and the other Syud went to the village to inquire about them, leaving me with no one but my servant Hoosain. As neither of us could speak a word of the Belooch language, we should have been awkwardly situated had we been discovered, and addressed by any of the people, several of whom passed close to us on their way home from the fields. Nearly an hour elapsed, and darkness was coming on, without any appearance of the Syud, whereupon I could not but conclude that my journey had been discovered, and that Fakeer Mahomed, the Chief of Nal, whose near relation had been killed, had adopted the plan of detaining my companions to oblige me to come and seek them. Under these circumstances, I considered what was best to be done. The provisions and money were with the other parties, without which, a guide, or knowledge of the language, our murder was inevitable by the first Beloochees we might meet, who must immediately have detected who we were. I determined, therefore, at once to proceed to the village, where the holy influence of my Syud friends might still prove of some avail, if I failed to terrify the chief into civility by threats of the consequences of maltreating a British officer. We were on our way, accordingly, and I was comforting poor Hoosain with the assurance that his life, as a Mahomedan, was at all events secure, when a cry from behind caused us to look round, and we joyfully recognized our friend the Syud, who, having missed our place of concealment, had long been hunting for us, —a most happy reprieve from what I considered almost certain destruction. The Syud informed us that the rest of our party had left the village some hours before, and had doubtless gone on, thinking we had preceded them. We therefore now went in search of them, and after two hours tracing from village to village, where we ascertained they had been inquiring for us, we found them at last in a small fort, assisting at the wake of its chief, the news of whose death at Khelat had arrived that afternoon. We could hear the wailing of the women long before we reached the village, which sounded very plaintively in the still night.

The relations of the deceased urgently invited us to enter the house of mourning; but we protested against intruding in the hour of such distress, and were glad of the excuse for proceeding on, after resting for an hour, determined at last to outstrip the news of the Khelat catastrophe, by pushing on all night, which we did till near daybreak (eight hours), at an amble of at least five miles an hour, being a perfectly level and smooth road, and beautiful moonlight, also now quite mild,—a most agreeable change from the bitter cold we had so lately experienced, and a proof how much we must have descended since leaving Khelat. It was satisfactory to find, also, that we were now out of the haunts of man, having seen no trace of habitation for the last thirty miles; and it was with a feeling of greater security than we had yet experienced that we lay down to sleep for a couple of hours on the bank of a river.

19*th*.—Eight hours. On awaking about 7 A. M., we were much vexed to find that our guide had decamped, he having been paid in advance for the whole trip to Beyla; and tired, probably, of our long journeys, though riding (on a camel) as well as ourselves, had taken advantage of our sound sleep to walk off, carrying nothing with him, however, as we always slept on the little kit we possessed, and with our bridles in our hands. Fortunately some flocks were observed grazing at a little distance, and we persuaded a shepherd to accompany us. Our journey this day occupied eight hours, by a good road. Passing over a high range of mountains, the Oornach, by easy ascent and descent, bivouacked in the bed of the Oornach river, generally dry, but here some small springs trickled into it from the side of a hill, affording a little green grass for our horses,—the first forage we had had time or opportunity to give them, they having hitherto subsisted on a scanty allowance of grain, brought with us from Khelat in the first instance, and renewed at Nal. The camels, also, had green tamarisk to feed on,—a luxury they had enjoyed for the first time yesterday in the Nal valley, on entering which, the sight of the luxuriant green tamarisk bushes was quite refreshing, contrasted with the stuff we had seen in Afghanistan, stunted and brown, as if burnt by fire, or blighted by frost: indeed, this was the first *green* foliage we had yet seen since leaving Kabool, with the exception of a few juniper bushes in the Ranker Hills; and its appearance, as also that of several well-known Indian shrubs, lost sight of since we entered Afghanistan, cheered me much on my last night's moonlight march, such as the babool and neem trees, also bulrushes, &c. Even the scanty yellow grass on the hill sides in the Sohrab Valley was a pleasing sight to me, for nowhere between that and Kabool is grass to be found growing wild, except occasionally fringing water streams. No habitations seen, nor people met, on this march.

20*th*.—Eighteen hours. Marched at midnight, almost full moon. Passed some hamlets and fields of ripe jowaree (the first seen since leaving India), in a retired dell, in the midst of the hills, seemingly quite isolated from the world by the wilderness of mountains surrounding it. Passed on silently, without communicating with, or awaking, the inhabitants, said to be a wild race, notwithstanding the peaceful appearance of their valley. Surmounted the Poorally range, higher, apparently, than that of the Oornach. Here were dashed my hopes of the practicability of this route, which latterly had become sanguine; for the road over this pass, which I saw no means of otherwise turning, is a path so narrow, steep, and rocky,—sometimes winding along the side of precipitous hills, at others through narrow fissures of hard rock,—as to be utterly impracticable for guns, and incapable of being made so but at immense cost of time and labour, if *at all*. After a march of eleven hours, dismounted, and passed the day in a ravine, affording a scanty supply of water, and a little green pasture for the cattle. Under pretence of the heat, separated to a little distance from my companions, for the shelter of a bush, but in reality to indulge in the pleasure of reading a *Bombay Times* of the 12th October, which I had secreted for the purpose of beguiling an hour, but had hitherto no opportunity of looking at. The history of this paper is somewhat curious. After the storm of Khelat, while the place was yet uncleared of the prisoners, and some were still holding out, a person of consideration among the Beloochees held up this paper to the soldiers, who probably would have sacrificed him on the spot, considering it a barefaced avowal of one of the acts by which his race had most vexed us, *i. e.* robbing our Dâks. Luckily Major Campbell, passing at the time, inquired into the matter, and ascertained that this personage, having sent to tender his submission to the Political Agent, and to request a safe conduct, that officer returned this paper (received that morning), to be used as a signal of protection, in the absence of a written one, there being no writing materials at hand to furnish it. While occupied with my paper, hearing a rustling above me, I looked up, and was not a little startled to see a ferocious-looking, wild Belooch, with a long matchlock, observing me from the top of the bank, who made off, however, on seeing my companions get up from a little distance, on my calling to them. How he came there, or what his intentions were, I know not; but the circumstance warned me not to separate from my companions, and to be more careful in future of displaying the paper. In the evening, continued our journey for seven hours, over another range of mountains, but both ascent and descent easy, generally along smooth, firm, sandy beds of dry water channels, which, in the descent, gradually widened to the

expanse of a magnificent river, but quite devoid of water, the banks varying from sloping hills, and shaded with gigantic tamarisk trees, to perpendicular bare rocks of stupendous height, generally opening to wide valleys in the former case, and contracting to narrow channels in the latter. The scenery throughout this march, heightened by bright moonlight, was very beautiful. I here had the pleasure to recognize an old Indian acquaintance in the prickly-pear, which brought pleasing recollections of hog and tiger-hunts to " while the weary way." Not a trace of inhabitants the whole of this day's march, except in the secluded dell above mentioned.

21*st*.—Nine and a half hours. Arose from our bivouac at daybreak. For two hours our road still continued along dry water channels, on emerging from which, I was glad to find my view to the southward unconfined by hills. All before me was now open, all difficulties surmounted, and but little danger remaining, for the tidings of Khelat had not yet travelled so far ! One easy march of nine and a half hours brought us to a hamlet on the opposite bank of the Poorally (a fine river, with much cultivation for the last six miles along the right bank), where we bivouacked, my companions indulging in a fatted lamb, and free intercourse with the people, concealing, however, the events at Khelat, and fate of Mehrab Khan, to whose daughter the Beyla Chief is married, or of Wulee Mahomed, his (the Beyla Chief's) uncle. My own fare, however, continued, as heretofore, to consist of dates and water, which was attributed to the abstinence becoming my holy character.

22*nd*.—Ten and a half hours. Started at 3 A. M., so as to pass Beyla before daybreak. Had to pass through a large Kafila from Bombay, encamped under its walls, the leaders of which, roused by their dogs, and seeing the direction from which we had come, were most importunate for information as to what was going on at Khelat, having heard at Bombay that the English army was expected there, and fearing that they might suffer in passing through the country in case of warfare. The Syuds were prudently uncommunicative, however, declaring that we had only come from Nal, and that when we left that place it was unknown how the " Feeringees" would settle with Mehrab Khan. The Kafila people evidently suspected that we knew more about it, and plied us with numerous questions; but we at last got away from them as the day broke, my friends being particularly anxious to avoid recognition by people at Beyla, who would have insisted on detaining us from motives of hospitality, which might have led to very unpleasant consequences however. Pursued our journey till 1 P. M., and rested on the bank of the Poorally; no village. From Beyla two roads branch off, one direct to Sonmeeanee, the other *viâ* Layaree, the latter more circuitous; which, however, I chose, as the other had been seen by Pottinger.

23*rd*.—Fourteen hours. Marched at 8 P. M. on the 22*nd*. Travelled all night, and till ten this forenoon, when we arrived at Sonmeeanee, passing Layaree, a paltry village. Indeed, the country from Beyla to the sea, though perfectly level, a rich soil, and well watered by the Poorally, is almost a desert, owing to the scantiness of its population. Besides Beyla, Layaree, and Sonmeeanee, I did not see above half a dozen hamlets, and those consisting of but a few huts each, the whole way from the hills to the sea.

Ascertained and made myself known to the Hindoo agent of Naomull Sett of Kurachee, who treated me and my companions most hospitably, and furnished me with a boat, in which I embarked in the evening for Kurachee, taking with me my Afghan Yaboo, which, though only thirteen hands, had carried me and saddle-bags, altogether weighing upwards of sixteen stone, the whole distance (355 miles) in seven days and a half, having during that time been one hundred and eleven hours on his back.

P.S.—12*th December* 1839.—A batch of horses landed from Sonmeeanee, the Belooch dealers with which state that, at midnight of the day I sailed from that port, the son of Wulee Mahomed (the Chief of Wudd, slain at the storm of Khelat) arrived with a party in pursuit of me, and displayed much irritation on learning my escape. It appears that information of my journey and disguise was received by this chief the day after I passed Nal.

Route from Khelat to Sonmeeanee, viâ Nal, Beyla, and Layaree.

Hours occupied.	Estimated Miles.	General Direction.	Remarks.
4	14	SSW.	Rodinjoe.—A small village; small stream of fine water; road excellent. About five miles from Khelat pass through a defile between hills, which could be easily ascended, or the pass turned. The rest of the road quite open. Camel forage, the southern-wood shrub, scanty; grass on the hills; must be plentiful in spring.
9	12	SSW.	Surmosing.—Two small wells, close to the hills on the left of the valley, but more water said to be in centre of the valley just opposite. Road pretty good, but undulating and stony, skirting the hills the last six or eight miles. No village or vegetation in the plain, except southern-wood shrub; scanty yellow grass on the hill sides.
...	10	SSW.	1st Sohrab.—A small village; some trees and cultivation; stream of good water. Road good, but rather stony, and undulating, for about half way, till it leaves the hills for the centre of the valley. Forage as above. No villages in the valley from Rodinjoe to this place.
...	8	SSW.	2nd Sohrab.—A cluster of villages of that name. Two other villages between the 1st Sohrab and these; considerable cultivation and some trees at each. Forage as above. Here the roads separate to Gundava, Wudd, and Nal, and the valley terminates, running from the pass, five miles from Khelat, to this (generally averaging from fifteen to twenty miles in width), in a SSW. direction. The villages at this season are all deserted, the inhabitants descending to the Gundava plains for the winter.
6	24	SSW.	Small stream.—No villages, but fields cultivated in spring. Scanty camel forage and grass in the hills. Road bad, but quite practicable for guns; stony, and many small ascents and dips. No water or village on the road; the dry channels of several mountain streams we passed may contain water earlier in the season, but I could not clearly ascertain the point.
10	5	SSW.	Lakoora.—Signs of considerable cultivation, but no habitations. Camel forage and grass scanty. Road good.
...	10	SSW.	To the end of the Jewa Valley, containing water, and considerable cultivation, and some habitations, now deserted. Forage abundant. Road for the first three miles through a range of hills (running to the westward), very rocky, and will require some making for guns; latterly through the valley, very good.
29	83		

Hours occupied.	Estimated Miles.	General Direction.	Remarks.
29	83		
...	20	...	Parkoo.—A small village, lately destroyed by Mehrab Khan. Fine stream of water, with turf on its banks. Camel and horse forage scanty. Remains of cultivation, and a few trees.
...	...	SE.	Ascend a rocky pass, about 100 feet, requiring to be cleared for guns, and very steep. Level road for about half a mile, then a descent of about 300 feet, very rocky and steep, requiring much labour to clear it for guns. Three miles to dry bed of river running from north-east, rocky in some places. Next ten miles the road good, across a level plain, to the site of a village, and remains of much cultivation, but could see no water. Three miles further re-cross the same river (dry), running west. Three miles more, reach Parkoo. Road for the last sixteen miles very good.
5	14	SE.	Nal.—A considerable village and district containing several villages of the same name, occupying a wide and fertile valley. Abundant water, forage, and supplies. Crossed a high range of hills (ascent about 500 feet, and descent 1,000) by a path quite impracticable for laden cattle of any description. The high road from Parkoo to Nal said to be good (with no great ascent or descent), running through the hills considerably further to the right, and five or six miles longer than that by which I came.
10½	17	S.	Hamlets, and considerable cultivation, with abundant water; camel and grass forage.—Road excellent. At six miles pass several villages, level plain, and clumps of tamarisk. Three miles of stony plain, babool jungle, and tamarisk. Five miles of level grass plain, with swamp on the left hand for the last two miles. Good water, hamlets, and cultivation, for the next three miles. Horse and camel forage, and water abundant.
...	15	S.	Durruk (or Nal) river.—Cross the elbow of the river running from, and again going off to, the left. No village. Good stream of water; abundant camel forage, but no grass. Road excellent. Six miles over perfectly smooth plain, without a stone; nine miles undulating kunkur ground, with slight descent to river, which appears to run parallel to the road (and about two miles distant) for some miles.
...	14	S.	Durruk (or Nal) river.—Cross the same river, which here goes off to the westward, having run parallel to, and about a mile from, the road, to the left, since last touching it. No villages, but traces of cultivation here and there. Abundant camel forage, but no grass. Road perfectly smooth, without a stone.
8	14	S.	Bed of river.—Pools of water at the foot of the Oornach pass. Camel forage, but no grass, and no villages.
52½	177		For the first five or six miles the Durruk river flanks

Hours occupied.	Estimated Miles.	General Direction.	Remarks.
52½	177		the road, about a mile off, then runs due west. Road good the whole way, except for the last half mile, when there is a considerable descent to the river, but perfectly practicable for guns, without making.
...	12	S.	Bed of the Oornach river.—Small spring and pool of water. Camel forage, but no grass, except enough at the edge of the spring for three or four horses. First five miles gradual ascent: road along *dry* water channels, with firm, smooth, gravel bottom, to the top of the Oornach pass. Descend seven miles to the spring gradually, and by similar and equally good road to the ascent for the first four miles, till the road enters the dry bed of the Oornach river, which is much broken, and rocky.
18	7	SE.	Oornach village.—On the river, a little to the right of the road, which leaves the river about two miles below the spring, and takes across hills to the left for five miles, when it re-crosses the river. Road very rocky; would require clearing for guns.
...	15	E.	Foot of Poorally Pass.—Scanty supply of water obtained by digging in the sandy bottom of a ravine; no forage. Road good, passing through the centre of a small valley, in which there are hamlets scattered, and some cultivation, the Oornach river winding through. It is crossed three times, and then goes off due north (where it joins the Poorally river I imagine). No water in it. The last three miles after leaving the valley ascend considerably, and cross several ravines, bad for artillery.
...	2	E.	Top of Poorally Pass.—From water ravine, the road winds along the sides of hills and ravines, only wide enough for one animal to pass at a time, and not capable of being easily widened. Ascent gradual.
...	1	E.	To bottom of pass.—Descent exceedingly abrupt and rocky, at one time confined for some distance between perpendicular rocks, and barely wide enough for a laden camel to pass. Here immense labour would be required to widen sufficiently for guns, and I saw no means of turning it. The remainder of the descent is so abrupt as to be impracticable for guns, and it could not easily, if at all, be improved. Water is seen at the bottom of a deep glen, a little off the road, but could not easily be got at.
...	6	E.	Springs of water, but scanty, at the bottom of a ravine. Road pretty good, but three deep ravines to cross. Grass round the springs, sufficient for half a dozen horses; no other horse forage; plenty of babool jungle, and tamarisk for camels. No villages to be seen from the top of the pass as far as the eye could reach; nothing but a succession of mountains on all sides.
70½	220		

Hours occupied.	Estimated Miles.	General Direction.	Remarks.
70½	220		
7	5	SE.	Top of another range.—Road good, and ascent gradual, generally along water channels, with firm, sandy bottoms ; no water.
...	15	SE.	Gradually descend by similar roads, very good, but generally confined by high mountains or precipitous rocks, to some springs oozing from the sandy bottom of a deep ravine. No space for encamping the smallest force near the water, but ample shelter would be afforded by the high rocks on both sides. For some distance above and below the water, no forage for horses ; ample tamarisk, &c. for camels. No traces of human habitations anywhere in the neighbourhood of this day's route.
9½	10	SE.	Road still along water channels, and confined by hills and rocks, but a wide and firm gravel road to some small brackish springs ; no habitations ; camel forage.
...	7	SE.	Cross the Poorally river ; a fine stream ; camel and horse forage ; no habitations. River running due south.
...	12	S.	Chandra.—Follow the left bank of the river till opposite the village ; cross to it ; abundance of forage and supplies. The road generally good, but stony and undulating ; the bed of the river very wide and stony. Villages and cultivation on the right bank for the last six miles.
10½	12	S.	Beilow (Beyla).—Cross the Poorally, and along its stony bed for the first three miles, then good road to the town. Large place ; ample supplies, and forage for camels and horses.
...	13	S.	Touch an elbow of the Poorally river. No village ; horse and camel forage. Road good. Country perfectly level. Several small hamlets passed.
...	15	S.	Cross Poorally river ; considerable stream ; grass and tamarisk abundant. No village, and scarcely any habitations passed on the road. Road excellent, and perfectly smooth.
14	12	S.	An artificial bund, confining a considerable extent of water ; hamlets in the vicinity ; forage abundant.
...	10	S.	Layaree.—A large village. First four miles through thick jungle ; road in some parts very uneven, and at others through heavy sand.
...	24	ESE.	Sonmeeanee.—Road excellent, except the last four miles, through deep sand. The Poorally and its branches, marked in the map between Layaree and Sonmeeanee, not perceptible, but a considerable river of that name empties itself into the bay on the eastern side of the town, and I presume it has no other outlets.
111½	355		

N.B.—The distances are computed by the pace of the ambling ponies and camels we rode, averaging from two and a half to five miles per hour, according to the nature of the road. The direction is judged by the sun in the day, and moon and stars at night. Both forage and water are more scarce at this season than at any other period of the year.

EXTRACTS

FROM

A BRIEF MEMOIR

ON

THE PROVINCE OF LUS.

BY MAJOR H. W. PREEDY,

25TH REGT. BOMBAY N. I.,

COLLECTOR AT KURACHEE.

Submitted to Government in June 1854.

PROVINCE OF LUS.

The province of Lus is of an irregular triangular shape. It is bounded on the north by the Wudd State, belonging to the Mungul Brahoees, who are tributaries of Khelat; on the south by the Indian Ocean; on the east by the Pubb Mountains, and by the Hubb river, which forms the boundary between Lus and Sind; and on the west by the Hara and other ranges of mountains.

From Sonmeeanee, on the coast, to Khan Wat, on the northern frontier, the length of the province in a direct line is about 80 miles, while from the Hubb river on the east to Oonnaro, the extreme western port, its breadth is about 192 miles.

Route from South to North.

From Sonmeeanee to Sheik-ke-Raj	16	miles.
From Sheik-ke-Raj to Oothul	9	„
From Oothul to Beyla, the capital	32	„
From Beyla to Khan Wat	24	„
Total....	81	miles.

Route from East to West.

From Hubb river to Sonmeeanee	32	miles.
From Sonmeeanee to Hinglaj	80	„
From Hinglaj to Oonnaro	80	„
Total....	192	miles.

The province is intersected by the Vindhur and Poorally rivers, and by numerous mountain streams; but the country being unprovided with bunds, the supply of water afforded by the rivers and streams is too irregular to be of much use, and the cultivation of the province is, in consequence, almost entirely dependent on rain.

The Government revenue, which is derived chiefly from a land tax, and from customs, averages about Rs. 33,000 per annum, and is collected as follows:—

From Sonmeeanee customs.....	Rs. 6,000
From Oonnaro customs	4,000
From the district of Beyla and other parts of the province, land tax	23,000
Total....Rs.	33,000

The principal tribes inhabiting the province are the following :—

1*st*.—The *Yamate*, of which the Jam or ruler of the province is the head. The next chief in rank, Sirdar Khan Mahomed, also belongs to this tribe, and possesses Jageers yielding from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000 per annum.

2*nd*.—*Sabra ;* Chief Joonjar, who holds Jageers valued at Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 per annum.

3*rd*.—*Guddore ;* Chief Haroon, possessing Jageers valued at Rs. 1,000 per annum.

4*th*.—*Hungaryah ;* Sirdar Fukeer Mahomed ; Jageers valued at Rs. 1,000, with extensive grazing tracts.

5*th*.—*Goonga ;* Chief unknown ; Jageers valued at Rs. 2,000.

6*th*.—*Bhoora ;* Chief Gool Mahomed, possessing pasture lands.

7*th*.—*Mandra ;* Chief Durya Khan ; Jageers yielding Rs. 2,000.

8*th*.—*Sheik ;* Chief Mitthaleh.*

9*th*.—*Roonja ;* Chief Chagla.*

The chief products of the territory are jowaree, surshooj or mustard, till or sesamum, and small qantities of rice, tobacco, and goor.

Jam Meer Khan, the present ruler of the province (A. D. 1854), is a young man of about twenty-five years of age. He is connected by marriage with Nuseer Khan, the Chief of Khelat, whose half-sister he married, and by whom he has three sons. He is also nearly connected by marriage with the large Sindian tribes of Jokeeas and Noomreeas.

His tribe, the Yamate, after having held possession of the province during some centuries, were, about a hundred and twenty years ago, temporarily dispossessed by the Boôrfut Noomreeas, whose Chief Pahar Khan, having been assisted by the Khan of Khelat, greatly extended his power and territories. Pahar Khan died a few years after his conquest, at Beyla, where his body lies entombed.

Pahar Khan married two wives ; the first a sister of Nuseer Khan, the founder of the present Khelat dynasty, by whom he would appear to have had no issue ; and the second a woman of his own tribe, named Changlee, by whom he had a son, named Izzut Khan.

The death of Pahar Khan occurred during the troublous period which ensued throughout these countries, upon the assassination of Nadir

* These two tribes compose, for the most part, the cultivators or Ryuts of the province ; and from whom the Government land tax is collected.

Shah; and his son Izzut Khan being absent at Khelat, Changlee, the widow, resumed the reins of government, and immediately commenced oppressing the Yamate tribe, who, seeing the opportunity favourable for regaining their lost dominion, rose in a body, expelled Changlee and her family, and have ever since maintained possession of the province.

Nuwab Ahmed Khan Noomreea, of Kotree, who died in 1850, was fourth in descent from Pahar Khan, the former ruler of Lus. Ahmed Khan's son, Sobdar, married Jam Meer Khan's sister, by whom he had Sirdar Khan, the present Chief of the Noomreea tribe.

REPORT

ON THE

MUNCHUR LAKE, AND ARUL AND NARA RIVERS.

BY THE LATE

LIEUTENANT T. POSTANS,

15TH REGIMENT BOMBAY NATIVE INFANTRY,

ASSISTANT POLITICAL AGENT IN UPPER SIND.

Submitted to Government in May 1840.

MUNCHUR LAKE, &c.

During a certain portion of the year the main stream of the Indus, from Sehwan to within a few miles below Sukkur, is abandoned by the Indus boatmen, who from April to September invariably pursue the more circuitous, but easier route, by way of the Arul and Nara rivers, and the great Lake Munchur. As the result of my observations, whilst travelling in this direction, leads to the conviction that it offers unusual advantages for steamers of even moderate powers, I have drawn up the following brief notice, with a view to call attention to the subject.

The great stream of the Indus, meeting the formidable opposition offered to its current by the hills which join the river a few miles below Sehwan, throws off a branch in a north-westerly direction towards that town, and during the height of the inundations, and consequent greatest velocity of the current, this branch is continued up the Arul river to the distance of nearly twenty miles, until it is lost in the waters of the great Lake Munchur. The Arul river may be said to commence immediately above Sehwan. From the main river to the town, it is a broad, open channel, but its general width above is probably about forty yards, very uniform, and its depth everywhere very great. The banks are low (even with the water's edge), with but little cultivation, and are clothed with a thick jungle of the tamarisk bush, which here, as elsewhere in Sind, often attains the size of a jungle tree. The circumstance I have mentioned, of the stream from the main river traversing *upwards* in the Arul, as far as its junction with the lake, occurs, I have reason to think, during only a limited period, since a fleet of boats pursuing this route, in the month of May last, found the clear water of the Arul issuing from the lake, to within a short distance of Sehwan, where the current from the main stream ceased to be in their favour. In the beginning of July, however, which was the period of my journeying in this direction, the contrary was the case. We were carried *with* the stream from the Indus up the whole distance of the Arul, the muddy water being observable even for some time after we entered the lake. I mention the above fact with the view of demonstrating the great

increase in the velocity of the main stream, during the height of the inundations. The great Lake Munchur, when swelled by the inundations, is an enormous expanse of water, said to be twenty miles in length, by some ten in breadth, and covering an area probably of about 180 square miles. It extends from the foot of the hills to the north, and is lost on the low lands to the eastward.

The ordinary channel for navigation is nearly in the centre, where the water is beautifully clear, and very deep: it would appear that the same facilities for traversing its waters, which were observable when I crossed the lake, would always exist, since its main body is not affected by the inundations. These appear to be spread over the low lands, and leave the centre of the same depth, or nearly so, throughout the whole year. The Arul and Nara rivers, however, are completely dry from November to April. The traffic of boats, occupied in fishing or transporting grain, appeared to be very great.

The surface of the lake is covered for miles with the lotus plant; it abounds in fish, and whole families, as in the great river, find their homes in small craft, and look for subsistence to the produce of their nets.

The Nara has its mouth in about the centre of the northern shore of the lake. The channel for some distance is confined, and passes through a dense jungle of the tamarisk; but the appearance of the country soon changes, and, for the greater part of its course, this stream flows through an open country, which will probably vie with any of the same extent in the east, for richness of soil and capabilities of fertility. The general breadth of the Nara I should calculate at from eighty to one hundred yards, and the average rate of current probably two miles; its depth close to the banks was generally twenty feet.

The term Nara, signifying in Sindee a snake, is well applied to the continued windings of the stream; but these, from the dulness of the current, offer no obstacle to navigation: even at the height of the floods, a boat of 40 kurwars was tracked by five men, at the average rate of sixteen miles a day. The distance from Sehwan to where the Nara issues from the main stream is estimated by the Natives at 200 miles (100 kos, or about double that of the river itself), and I should not think it overrated. The general effect of this river is of its being a canal: it is difficult to imagine that its course is not artificial.

The portion of the country lying between the Nara and the main stream has, of course, a double advantage of irrigation, and, as the lands lie generally lower than the Nara, a simple drain suffices to turn the waters upon them. The soil is a rich alluvial, and rice is the principal cultivation, though the cotton plant, of the large description peculiar to Sind, is seen in great perfection on the high banks. This portion of

Sind is thickly populated: villages abound on both sides of the river, many of them composed of huts, built of temporary materials, surrounded by numerous flocks of sheep and cattle; the latter of an exceedingly fine description. There are also several towns of size and importance, the principal being Khyrpoor.

The numerous Government boats, laden with grain, which I learnt were on their way to Hyderabad, attest the importance of the revenue derived by the Ameers from this rich territory. At the same time, their usual system of excessive taxation is doubtless the cause of the comparatively small portion of land under cultivation in districts which might be made productive to an almost unlimited extent.

As I journeyed by the Nara river during the most favourable season for navigation, I may be overrating the advantages which it presents as a general route; but I think there can be little doubt that for six months in the year it would offer the advantages, over the main stream, of slow current, a uniform and great depth of water, supplies abundant, not forgetting the important article of fuel; and, as such, may perhaps merit a survey, and detailed report.

MEMORANDUM

RELATIVE TO

THE TRADE IN INDIGO,

CARRIED ON BY THE COUNTRIES BORDERING ON THE INDUS.

BY THE LATE

LIEUTENANT T. POSTANS,

15TH REGIMENT BOMBAY NATIVE INFANTRY,

ASSISTANT POLITICAL AGENT IN UPPER SIND.

Submitted to Government in August 1840.

INDIGO.

The important article of indigo, for the production of which, the Punjaub and countries bordering the Indus would appear to possess equal advantages with Bengal, and the Delta of the Ganges, cannot fail to attract considerable attention in connection with the trade of the former river, and will, in all probability, enter considerably into the return commodities to be looked for from those countries. The following is the amount of last year's crops for the Punjaub, Bhawulpoor, and Khyrpoor territories, with the present prices, on the spot, of the different descriptions :—

In the Punjaub, estimated quantity 17,800 maunds, thus produced :

Districts.			
1, At Dehra Ghazee Khan	3,000	maunds.	
2, Sooltan and Gangera.....	3,000	„	
3, At Gullivan, Jetpore, Noorchera, and Soomval	3,500	„	
4, At canals of Sirdarwar and Bhawulwar..	1,300	„	
5, At Mooltan and its districts	5,000	„	
6, At Soonadur, Mahomed Kot, Luhwab, and Bukkur	2,000	„	17,800

In the Bhawulpoor territories 4,000 maunds :

Districts.			
1, Khanpoor	3,000	maunds.	
2, Ahmedpoor	1,000	„	4,000

In the Khyrpoor territories 2,000 maunds :

Districts.			
1, Of Meer Moobaruk.....	600	maunds.	
2, Of Meer Roostum	300	„	
3, Of Meer Ali Moorad.....	900	„	
4, Various places towards Hyderabad.....	200	„	2,000

The total may thus be estimated at about 24,000 maunds, of which three-fourths find a market in Khorasan,*—the remainder divided between the home consumption, and exports to Muscat and Bombay.

* The consumption of indigo is general to the north-west, in the dark-coloured clothes used by the Mehmidous : the quantity exported to Bombay has increased within the last twelve months.

The following is a list of prices at the several places where the article is grown (duties unpaid) :—

At Dhera Ghazee Khan a mixture of five descriptions of indigo, known as Punjmeel, about Rs. 45 per maund.

Punjaub	No. 2.....	„	50 „
	No. 3.....	„	52 „
	No. 4.....	„	55 „
	No. 5, best qualities,	„	60 „
	No. 6, „	„	54 „
Bhawulpoor ..	No. 1, „	„	56 „
	No. 2, „	„	58 „
Khyrpoor	No. 1, „	„	57 „
	No. 2, „	„	58 „
	No. 3, „	„	60 „
	No. 4, „	„	55 „
	No. 5, „	„	60* „

Not having had the opportunity of inspecting methods of calculating and preparing the dye in these countries, I cannot offer any remarks or suggestions on their improvements ; but there can be no doubt that there is plenty of room for the introduction of a superior system, as employed by the European growers of Bengal. One is evident in the necessity of packing it in squares, and not in the present small pieces, whereby much waste appears to be occasioned.

The duties and expenses on the purchase and transmission of indigo by the river Indus to Bombay may be thus estimated :—

1, In the Punjaub, a duty on the purchase and clearing of Rs. 4 per maund.

2, In the Bhawulpoor territories, the duty amounts to Rs. 3-8-0.†

3, In the Khyrpoor territories, the duty amounts Rs. 1-2-0.

Independent of the above, transit duties are thus :—

In the Punjaub, at Mithenkot, Rs. 46-4-0 per boat-load.

In the Bhawulpoor territories, Rs. 30 per ditto.

In the Khyrpoor territories.—All transit duties on the river through the Hyderabad and Khyrpoor territories are cancelled under a Rahdaree Purwana from the British authorities.

* The maund is equal to 40 lbs. (Assars), the assar differing according to the country. In Shikarpoor the assar used in weighing indigo is equal to 81 Shikarpoor Rupees, or Company's New Currency 79, in weight.

† One-fourth of all purchases in the territories of Bhawul Khan is made from the Government share of produce, on which a duty of Rs. 10 per maund is levied ; the other three-fourths pay at the rate of Rs. 1-8-0 per maund, making an average of about Rs. 3-8-0 (*e. g.* 20 maunds are purchased, of which 5 maunds would pay at Rs. 10 per maund = Rs. 50 ; the remainder, 15 maunds, at Rs. 1-8-0 = Rs. 22-8-0 ; about Rs. 3-8-0 for the whole).

The expense of water carriage to Bombay is calculated by the dealers at about Rs. 2 per maund from Mooltan; and as the duties levied at the former place are known, an estimate may be formed of the price at which indigo, from the countries bordering on the Indus, may be brought into the Bombay market. In Shikarpoor, this article does not enter largely into the trade, the consumption being only about 100 maunds annually. It passes through Shikarpoor, however, in transit to Khorasan, by the route of the Bolan; but the greater quantity before alluded to finds its way to Kabool, Bokhara, &c. by the route of the Khybur, or the Daman Passes; the latter through the agency of the Lohana traders, and their Kafilas.

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Government of Maharashtra

on 30 January, 2020